



In this Nov. 3, 2015 file photo, the Keystone Steele City pumping station, into which the planned Keystone XL pipeline is to connect to, is seen in Steele City, Neb.
Associated Press

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In this Jan. 20, 2017, file photo, military units participate in the inaugural parade from the Capitol to the White House in Washington, Friday, Jan. 20, 2017.

Associated Press

\$92M is new estimate for Trump military parade; big increase

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Veterans Day military parade ordered up by President Donald Trump would cost about \$92 million, U.S. officials said Thursday, citing preliminary estimates more than three times the price first suggested by the White House.

According to the officials, roughly \$50 million would cover Pentagon costs for aircraft, equipment, personnel and other support for the November parade in Washington. The remainder would be borne by other agencies and largely involve security costs. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss early planning estimates that have not yet been finalized or released publicly.

Officials said the plans have not yet been approved by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

The parade's cost has become a politically charged issue, particularly after the Pentagon canceled a major military exercise planned for August with South Korea, in the wake of Trump's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Trump said the drills were provocative and that dumping them would save the U.S. "a tremendous amount of money." The Pentagon later said the Korea drills would have cost \$14 million.

Lt. Col. Jamie Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, would only say Thursday that Defense Department planning for the parade "continues and final details are still being developed. Any cost estimates are pre-decisional. We will announce more information when it is available." While details are still being worked out, the parade is expected to include troops from all five armed services — the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard — as well as units in period uniforms representing ear-

lier times in the nation's history. It also is expected to involve a number of military aircraft flyovers.

A Pentagon planning memo released in March said the parade would feature a "heavy air component," likely including older, vintage aircraft. It also said there would be "wheeled vehicles only, no tanks — consideration must be given to minimize damage to local infrastructure." Big, heavy tanks could tear up streets in the District of Columbia.

The memo from Mattis' office provided initial planning guidance to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His staff is planning the parade along a route from the White House to the Capitol, and would integrate it with the city's annual veterans' parade. U.S. Northern Command, which oversees U.S. troops in North America, is responsible for the actual execution of the parade.

Earlier this year, the White House budget director told Congress that the cost to taxpayers could be between \$10 million and \$30 million. Those estimates were likely based on the cost of previous military parades, such as the one in the nation's capital in 1991 celebrating the end of the first Gulf War, and factored in some additional increase for inflation. One veterans group weighed in Thursday against the parade. "The American Legion appreciates that our President wants to show in a dramatic fashion our nation's support for our troops," National Commander Denise Rohan said. "However, until such time as we can celebrate victory in the War on Terrorism and bring our military home, we think the parade money would be better spent fully funding the Department of Veteran Affairs and giving our troops and their families the best care possible." □

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Judge orders new federal review of Keystone XL pipeline

By GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A federal judge has ordered the U.S. State Department to conduct a more thorough review of the Keystone XL oil pipeline's proposed pathway after Nebraska state regulators changed the route, raising the possibility of further delays to a project first proposed in 2008.

U.S. District Judge Brian Morris of Montana said in a ruling Wednesday that the State Department must supplement its 2014 environmental impact study of the project to consider the new route. Morris declined to strike down the federal permit for the project, approved by President Donald Trump in March 2017.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission rejected pipeline developer TransCanada's preferred route in November 2017, but approved a different pathway that stretches farther to the east. The "mainline alternative" route is five miles longer than the company's preferred route, cuts through six different Nebraska counties and runs parallel to an existing TransCanada-owned pipeline for 89 miles.

State Department officials "have yet to analyze the mainline alternative route," Morris wrote in his ruling. The State Department has "the obligation to analyze new information relevant to the environmental impacts of its decision."

Last month, the State Department declared the pipeline would not have a major impact on Nebraska's water, land or wildlife. The report said the company could mitigate any damage caused.

It's not clear whether the additional review will de-



This March 24, 2017, file photo shows President Donald Trump, flanked by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, left, and Energy Secretary Rick Perry, announcing the approval of a permit to build the Keystone XL pipeline, clearing the way for the \$8 billion project in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

lay the 1,184-mile project. TransCanada spokesman Matthew John said company officials are reviewing the judge's decision, and noted that the project has already faced numerous federal reviews. He said company officials are still working with local, state and federal stakeholders. "We do not anticipate that the ruling will impact the current construction preparation activities we are currently undertaking," John said in an email.

Environmentalists, Native American tribes and a coalition of landowners have prevented the company from moving ahead with construction. In addition to the federal lawsuit in Montana that seeks to halt the project, opponents also have a lawsuit pending before the Nebraska Supreme Court. Oral arguments in the Nebraska case aren't expected until October.

Critics of the project have raised concerns about spills that could contami-

nate groundwater and the property rights of affected landowners.

Pipeline opponents cheered the decision and said they were confident that the courts would find other violations of federal law raised in the lawsuit.

"We are pleased that Judge Morris has rejected all of the excuses raised by the Trump administration and TransCanada in attempting to justify the federal government's failure to address TransCanada's new route through Nebraska," said Stephan Volker, an attorney for the environmental and Native American groups that filed the

Montana lawsuit.

A State Department spokesman said the agency was still reviewing the judge's order but declined to offer additional comments.

The pipeline would carry up to 830,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Canada through Montana and South Dakota to Steele City, Nebraska, where it would connect with the original Keystone pipeline that runs down to Texas Gulf Coast refineries.

The State Department's new report noted two major spills in South Dakota involving the original Keystone pipeline, which went into operation in 2010, but added that TransCanada has a lower overall spill rate than average in the oil pipeline industry. □

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Nevada Democrats hope Latinos can propel them to victory

By MICHELLE L. PRICE

LAS VEGAS (AP) — As temperatures topped 110 degrees last week outside a Latin American grocery store in Las Vegas, 19-year-old Diara Hernandez bounded up to customers, greeting them with a smile and a clipboard to ask in Spanish if they're registered to vote — or can vote. Hernandez, a College of Southern Nevada political science student and aspiring immigration lawyer, is part of the Democratic Party's battalion of volunteers working to register and engage Latino voters in this year's midterms. Democrats hope to re-create the big wins the state's Hispanic and immigrant community are credited with delivering for the party two years ago. Backlash against President Donald Trump's tougher immigration policies may help Democrats, but the party is also running into headwinds as they try to engage communities facing fear and uncertainty. "When I go to the grocery store, I'm not being asked about candidates. I'm not being asked about when the election is," said Astrid Silva, one of 13,000 young immigrants in Nevada shielded from deportation by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. "I'm being asked what's going to happen the next day to people's families." Silva, a 30-year-old woman in Las Vegas who was brought to the U.S. without authorization at age 4, said that while she feels energized by the prospects of a "blue wave" in November, many in her community are grappling with deportations from routine check-



In this Aug. 15, 2018, photo, Maria Nieto, right, and Alma Romo, second from left, register people to vote in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

ins with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the uncertain future of DACA. At a Las Vegas kickoff of a Democratic Latina organizing initiative called "¡Mujeres Mobilized!", Silva said she's heard many people say they won't vote because they don't think it will make a difference. "Our political power is there, I just think it's buried under a lot of fear, a lot of frustration and also a lot of misinformation," she later told The Associated Press. Kate Marshall, the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor whose family came to the U.S. from Mexico in 1921, said in the Latino community, Democrats "must spend some time talking to people about how our government is legitimate and worthwhile and needs your participa-

tion." Twenty-nine percent of people in Nevada are Latino and turning them out to vote makes a big difference in this swing state. In 2014, lagging Hispanic turnout in the midterm election was cited as one reason Republicans won key victories across the state. Two years later, heavy organizing among Latinos and immigrant-dominated labor unions was credited with delivering Nevada to Hillary Clinton, along with helping Democrats keep a U.S. Senate seat, flip two U.S. House seats and take control of both state legislative houses. Christina Lopez, a state Democratic Party organizer, said her goal is to "destroy the narrative" that communities of color fail to turn out for midterm elections.

"We're here to prove that communities of color swing them," Lopez said. Republicans, too, are making concentrated efforts to reach out to Hispanics. The state and national party's strategic initiatives have included meetings with community leaders, political operative trainings in Spanish and relationships with groups like the Latin Chamber of Commerce and Republican National Hispanic Assembly. Elisa Slider, chair of the assembly's Nevada branch, said her organization promotes conservatism by putting an emphasis on issues like family values, religious freedom and fiscal conservatism. Slider, who is of Cuban heritage and a cousin of Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, said she reminds people that families like

hers left socialist and communist countries — such as Cuba and Venezuela — for the United States. "They've been told that they're Democrats," she said. "But when you talk to them about the issues, they realize they're actually conservatives." Still, the president's harsh rhetoric, policies and racially-tinged comments remain a roadblock for some Latinos who would otherwise vote Republican. Christian Silva, a 41-year-old Las Vegas bakery driver and registered Democrat, said he's become more attracted to Republicans because he thinks the U.S. government needs to take a stricter approach to social programs like welfare. "I'm thinking about maybe changing my vote," he said. "Republicans are a little more straight about that." But Silva said despite considering a vote for GOP candidates, he won't support the party's leader. "Oh no, I'm Latino. I'd never vote for Trump," Silva said. "I think a lot of things Trump is doing is right. But he's a racist guy." Erik Baltazar, a 21-year-old who moved to Las Vegas a few months ago from Mexico, said he can appreciate Trump trying to crack down on illegal immigration, but the president "has the worst approach ever." Baltazar, a U.S. citizen born in Phoenix, cited the Trump administration's separation of families and children being held in cages at border facilities, saying "I think it's not human to do that stuff." If he doesn't hear a message of compassion or tolerance, Baltazar said he's not planning to vote at all. □



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AP Interview: Los Angeles mayor: Trump doing 'racist things'

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, considering a 2020 presidential run, said Thursday that President Donald Trump has done "plenty of racist things" to divide the nation while failing to deliver on health care reform and other promises.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the two-term Democratic mayor who already has visited the important presidential election states of Iowa and New Hampshire said he intends to make a decision on his candidacy by March.

To oust the president in a 2020 campaign, Garcetti said his party needs to show Trump doesn't back up his words. He pointed to Trump's promise to deliver a better health care plan than President Barack Obama's model. "How's that going?" he asked.

"We need to show this is not a strong man, this is a thin-skinned and ineffective person who isn't saying everything wrong, he's bringing up some good points, but he's not producing anything," Garcetti said. "And then the rest of the time he's dividing us and trying to take things away from us."

The mayor said that while "racism is something that lives in everybody," Trump "seems to be much more comfortable with his racism, letting it out."

"We do have a president, a commander in chief, who is using race to divide us. And not just race — immigra-



Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti talks during an interview with the Associated Press in Los Angeles on Thursday Aug. 16, 2018.
Associated Press

tion status, geography. He wants to divide us by these kind of essential categories, to point fingers," Garcetti said.

He stopped short of calling Trump a racist but said "he certainly has done plenty of racist things." Garcetti said it's important for the public to know if Trump used the N-word as alleged by fired White House aide Omarosa Manigault Newman.

In the wide-ranging interview, the mayor touched on issues from the city's homelessness crisis to immigration. He did not join some other Democrats in calling for the abolition of Immigration and Customs Enforcement but said its

mission must be changed.

"We have political leadership that has given ICE this mission that is destructive to families, to economies and to even the safety on our streets," he said.

No candidate has ever ascended directly from a mayor's office to the presidency, but Garcetti has argued that the work of mayors is essentially the type of chief executive work a president does. And in his case, he's overseen a city in a metropolitan area that has a roughly trillion-dollar economy, behind only Tokyo and New York.

When asked about the characteristics a candidate would need to top-

ple Trump in 2020, he appeared to describe himself in saying America needs someone not prone to theatrics and who listens more than speaks.

"President Trump is a great insulter. He's a pretty practiced bully. But I think American people don't want just somebody fighting with President Trump. They want somebody listening to them," he said.

"Average American people are just looking to connect with someone they trust. I don't think they trust Trump at the level that they did, even those who like him," he said.

Garcetti added he "can fire it up too," though he's known for a polished, manly disposition.

Strongly Democratic California has been a mainstay in the so-called Trump resistance, but Garcetti said Trump's tenure has amounted to more threats than any broad change in the way the city conducts business.

Should he run for president, the expected crowded Democratic field could include fellow Californian Kamala Harris, a first-term U.S. senator and former state attorney general. Garcetti called her a dear friend and said what she does won't influence his decision.

One of Garcetti's signature accomplishments as mayor was helping craft a successful plan to bring the 2028 Summer Olympics to Los Angeles, after ceding the 2024 Games to rival Paris. He predicts the transportation improvements and

construction in advance of the Games will change the face of the city.

He said development around the 1932 and 1984 Games in LA were "the times when we really rebuilt" Los Angeles.

Even as he heralds the Olympics, an expanded commuter rail system and a revitalized downtown, Garcetti faces a homeless crisis that is vast, costly and heart-wrenching. Thousands of transients, most addicted to drugs or mentally ill, regularly camp on sidewalks in an area of town known as Skid Row. Homeless people often sprawl on the lawn outside City Hall.

Garcetti said he was awakened Thursday by an apparently homeless person screaming on his block. He blames the state and federal governments for not doing more to help cities like Los Angeles develop innovative ways to get homeless the help they need.

In one case, he said an alcoholic homeless woman was picked up by LA authorities 155 times and simply recycled back onto the streets until she was moved into a city program in March that aims to get people like her funneled into treatment programs tailored to their needs.

Los Angeles voters have approved spending over \$1 billion to construct housing for the homeless, but when will residents begin to see a change?

"Not soon enough for me," the mayor said, without providing any date. □

U.S. vows to work more closely with states to fight wildfires



Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, joined at right by Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., and Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., discuss ways to improve the health of the forests and how to reduce wildfires, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018.

Associated Press

By MATTHEW DALY

WASHINGTON (AP) — As wildfires choke California and other Western states, the Trump administration pledged Thursday to work more closely with state and local officials to prevent wildfires from ever starting. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said the Forest Service and other agencies will step up efforts to cut down small trees and un-

derbrush and set controlled fires to remove trees that serve as fuel for catastrophic blazes, including a series of deadly fires that have spread through drought-parched forests and rural communities in California. Six firefighters have died in those wildfires.

Perdue, who toured the California fires this week, said they were "stark reminders of the immense

forest-fire health crisis in this country, and the urgent need to dramatically increase our preventative forest treatments."

While officials have boosted forest management efforts in recent years, more needs to be done, Perdue said. "To truly protect our forests, we must increase the number and the size of our (prevention) projects across the local landscape and across boundaries, and frankly we can't do this by ourselves," Perdue said at a news conference at the Capitol.

Perdue pledged a "shared stewardship" approach in which the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies work with state, local and tribal officials to fight and prevent wildfires.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, meanwhile, said national forests have suffered from "gross mismanagement" for decades.

"The fuel loads are up. The density of our forests is historical. We have dead and dying timber," Zinke said at a Cabinet meeting at the

White House.

"This is unacceptable that year after year we're watching our forests burn, our habitat destroyed and our communities devastated," Zinke added. "And it is absolutely preventable. Public lands are for everybody to enjoy and not just held hostage by these special-interest groups."

Zinke has long complained that environmental "extremists" make it difficult for trees to be logged to reduce fire risk.

"Whether you're a global warmist advocate or denier, it doesn't make a difference when you have rotting timber, when housing prices are going up ... yet we are wasting billions of board feet" of timber that could go to local lumber mills, he said.

The focus on wildfire comes as California and other states face longer and more destructive wildfire seasons because of drought, warmer weather attributed to climate change and homes built deeper into forests.

Yosemite National Park's

scenic valley in Northern California reopened Tuesday after a 20-day, smoke-forced closure, and hundreds of people were evacuated from Glacier National Park in Montana after a wildfire destroyed at least nine homes and cabins in one of the park's historic districts.

In Washington state, meanwhile, officials have distributed masks to combat unhealthy air filled with smoke from wildfires that have blanketed the Northwest.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said the current crisis underscores the importance of preventing wildfires. "It is unacceptable to me to have Northwest seniors and young people being afraid to open their doors in the morning because they are afraid of smoke," he said.

Longer and hotter wildfire seasons are the "new normal," said Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., "and we have to meet it with a very, very aggressive response" that includes drones, satellites and other technology. Not all efforts will be popular, Cantwell said, noting that some Seattle-area residents opposed controlled burns this spring because they feared the smoke.

"I guarantee you now, Seattle would definitely take a little bit of smoke instead of the eventual, all-summer-long smoke that we're getting," she said.

Perdue and other officials said the focus on prevention could save money, noting that federal wildfire costs approached a record \$3 billion last year. "There's no quick fix," Perdue said, but increased collaboration could eventually save money or at least "get more done with the same costs." Congress earlier this year created a wildfire disaster fund to help combat increasingly severe wildfires. The law sets aside more than \$20 billion over eight years to allow the Forest Service and other federal agencies to end a practice of raiding non-fire-related accounts to cover wildfire costs.

The plan takes effect in October 2019. □

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Man who lamented family's disappearance arrested in deaths

By KATHLEEN FOODY and JONATHAN DREW

FREDERICK, Colo. (AP) — After his pregnant wife and two daughters disappeared, Christopher Watts stood on his porch in Colorado and lamented to reporters how much he missed them.

He longed for the simple things, he said, like telling his girls to eat their dinner and gazing at them as they curled up to watch cartoons.

"Last night, I had every light in the house on. I was hoping that I would just get ran over by the kids running in the door, just barrel-rushing me, but it didn't happen," he told Denver TV station KMGH.

On Thursday, Watts was in jail after being arrested on suspicion of killing his family, probably before he spoke those words. Authorities did not offer a motive.

The body of 34-year-old Shanann Watts was found on property owned by Anadarko Petroleum, one of the state's largest oil and gas drillers, where Christopher Watts used to work, police said. Investigators believed they knew where to find 4-year-old Bella and 3-year-old Celeste and were working to recover their bodies.

"As horrible as this outcome is, our role now is to do everything we can to determine exactly what occurred," John Camper, director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, said at a news conference in Frederick, a small town on the grassy plains north of Denver, where fast-growing subdivisions intermingle with drilling rigs and oil wells. Watts, 33, has not been formally charged. A judge

ordered him held without bail and told prosecutors to file charges by Monday afternoon. He set a Tuesday hearing to review the case. As he was escorted into the courtroom, Watts did not speak. He looked down for much of the hearing but made eye contact as the judge reviewed his rights. Watts' attorney, James Merson of the Colorado State Public Defender's Office, left without commenting to reporters. He did not immediately respond to a voicemail left at his office Thursday by The Associated Press.

A family friend reported Shanann Watts and her daughters missing on Monday, police said.

In his previous interviews with Denver TV outlets, Christopher Watts said his wife of nearly six years returned home about 2 a.m. Monday after a flight for a work trip was delayed.

He said the two had an "emotional conversation" before he left for work a few hours later and that he became concerned after she did not return his calls or texts or those of her friends. He said he came home to an empty house after a friend knocked on the door at noon and got no answer.

Shanann Watts' Facebook account paints a portrait of a happy married life, with a constant feed of photos and videos of friends, relatives and herself. Her comments were typically upbeat, whether she was running errands, playing with her kids or promoting a health program.

She posted selfies of her and her husband smiling in restaurants, at the ocean on vacation and at

their house. On May 5, she wrote: "I love this man! He's my ROCK!"

On June 19, she posted a photo of some texts with her husband after sending him a picture of a sonogram. He replied that he loved the baby already. She posted: "I love Chris! He's the best dad us girls could ask for." □



Christopher Watts is escorted into the courtroom before his bond hearing at the Weld County Courthouse on Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018, in Greeley, Colo.

Associated Press

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Challenged by US and market crisis, Turkey turns to Europe

ISTANBUL (AP) — Beset by a shaky currency and tension with the United States, Turkey is reaching out to Europe to shore up relations with major trading partners despite years of testy rhetoric and a stalled bid for EU membership.

The engagement by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has harshly criticized Germany and other European nations in the past, is part of a diplomatic campaign to capitalize on international unease over U.S. President Donald Trump and American tariff disputes around the world. Also this week, Qatar pledged \$15 billion in investments in Turkey and Russia's foreign minister talked about using national currencies instead of the dollar in trade with Turkey.

Even so, many commentators believe the path to Turkey's long-term recovery lies in bold economic steps, such as an interest rate increase to curb inflation after years of debt-fueled growth, as well as a resolution to a bitter rift with the United States over an



In this Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017 file photo, a European Union flag is seen in front of Nispetiye Mosque in Istanbul.

Associated Press

American pastor on trial in a Turkish court. They wonder to what extent Erdogan, who has intensified his control over Turkey as leader for nearly 16 years, can modify his positions after saying the currency crisis and standoff with Washington is an "economic war."

The dialogue with NATO allies in Europe as well as Russia, seen by many in Washington as a threat to U.S. interests, reflect Turkey's unusual status as a strategic country in a volatile region where world powers have long been deeply involved. Turkey, which has secular traditions and a mostly Muslim population, has generally taken a pragmatic course since the Cold War, staying anchored in Western institutions but also engaging Iran and other regional heavyweights.

In a fresh emphasis on Europe, Erdogan spoke by phone about stability and cooperation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday, and with French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday. In addition, Turkey freed two Greek soldiers who had been held in a Turkish prison for months. And a Turkish court freed Taner Kilic, an Amnesty International representative who was jailed for 14 months, though the terror-related charges against him were not dropped.

"There is a growing reaction in Europe against the Trump administration's restrictive and punitive economic policies," Ibrahim Kalin, a spokesman for the Turkish president, said in remarks that did not address the

difficulties in relations between Europe and Turkey. He said Turkey, France and Germany "are on the same page" in opposing the U.S. move to impose tariffs.

Just last year, during a low point, Erdogan referred to what he called the "Nazi practices" of contemporary Germany.

Washington imposed sanctions on two Turkish government ministers and doubled tariffs on Turkish steel and aluminum imports over the detention of American pastor Andrew Brunson on espionage and terror-related charges. Turkey retaliated with tariffs on some U.S. imports and said it would boycott U.S. electronic goods.

The EU has likewise been subjected to new tariffs on steel and aluminum by the Trump administration, with the bloc responding in kind, though the sides agree last month to try to roll back the punitive duties.

The EU, Turkey's biggest trading partner, provides billions of euros to the Turkish government to help several million Syrian refugees on its soil and prevent them from reaching Europe. But the relationship is also fraught. Turkey has accused European countries of harboring suspected terrorists, while Europe has longstanding concerns

about democracy and the rule of law in Turkey.

Turkey's detention of half a dozen German citizens for what Berlin considers political reasons after a 2016 coup attempt has been a major irritant. Another German citizen was arrested Wednesday for suspected links to Kurdish rebels, German news agency dpa reported.

It would be in Turkey's own interest to come to an agreement with the United States and others on the release of foreign prisoners, said Germany's foreign minister, Heiko Maas. Merkel has also said that, while Turkey's economic stability is vital, it is important that the country's central bank be able to operate independently. Some investors are concerned that Erdogan is increasing influence over the central bank to keep it from raising interest rates, a worry that contributed to the recent plunges in the value of the Turkish lira.

Holger Schmieding, an economist for Berenberg bank, said there are limits to what the EU can do to help Turkey.

"A few extra billion euros for Turkey to cope with the Syrian refugee crisis and some small amounts from other EU funds are feasible," he wrote in an analysis. "But such sums would not make a decisive difference."

Schmieding said a bailout by the International Monetary Fund, seen as unlikely at the moment, could become a "realistic option" if Erdogan improves political ties with the EU and the United States and makes a "U-turn" on economic policies. The \$15 billion pledge from Qatar comes as the small nation on the Arabian Peninsula faces its own geopolitical crisis. For over a year, Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have boycotted Doha in a political dispute. Despite facing initial strains in its own crisis, energy-rich Qatar does have the money to spend to help Ankara. Despite Turkey overtures to Europe this week, experts are braced for more twists and turns. □



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Australian sex abuse victim settles with Catholic order

Associated Press

PERTH, Australia (AP) — A 74-year-old man with terminal cancer said on Thursday he could die happy after reaching a 1 million Australian dollar (\$727,000) landmark settlement against a Catholic religious order for sexual abuse he suffered in Australia more than 50 years ago.

Paul Bradshaw was to testify on Thursday in the Western Australia state District Court about his ill treatment at Castledare Junior Orphanage and Clontarf Orphanage run by the Irish Christian Brothers order in the 1950s and '60s.

But instead, a settlement was reached with the Trustees of the Christian Brothers for the abuse he suffered at the hands of Brothers Lawrence Murphy, Bruno Doyle and Christopher Angus, who are all dead.

Bradshaw is the first victim to claim damages for historical child sex abuse under laws that recently came into effect in Western Australia, removing the time limit for such cases.

He cried outside court, explaining his 60-year fight and said he was relieved his family would receive his compensation money. He said doctors had advised that he only had six months to live.

"I lived on the street most of my life and I don't want them to go through the same thing I went through," he told reporters. "I'm just



In this photo made from video, Australian church abuse victim Paul Bradshaw, 74, speaks during a press conference outside a courthouse in Perth, Australia.

Associated Press

hoping now that this has been settled and I can get on with my last six months in peace."

"I will die happy now knowing that I can care for my family," he added.

The Catholic Church, Australia's largest denomination, in May became the first non-government institution to commit to a AU\$3.8 billion (\$2.9 billion) national redress plan for victims of child sex abuse in Australian institutions over decades.

The Catholic Church estimates it alone will be liable for about AU\$1 billion in compensation.

Former Archbishop of Ad-

elaide Philip Wilson was this week sentenced to 1 year in home detention after becoming the most senior Catholic cleric to be convicted of covering up child sex abuse.

Pope Francis' former finance minister, Cardinal George Pell, faces trial on sexual assault charges in Australia. The exact details and nature of the charges have not been disclosed to the public, though police have described them as "historical" sexual assaults, meaning they are alleged to have occurred decades ago.

The national redress plan

was recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which made its final report in December. Australia's longest-running royal commission — which is the country's highest form of inquiry — had been investigating since 2012 how institutions responded to sexual abuse of children in Australia over 90 years. The inquiry heard the testimonies of more than 8,000 survivors of child sex abuse. Of those who were abused in religious institution, 62 percent were Catholics.

Bradshaw said his case was never about money.

"I just wanted the apology of the Christian Brothers and I would have been happy with that," he said.

His lawyer Michael Magazanik told reporters it was a landmark case in Western Australia.

"If it weren't for recent changes in WA law, none of this was possible," Magazanik said. "Now WA law is the fairest and certainly the most progressive for survivors like Paul."

Magazanik said the orphanages housed the most vulnerable children who had no families to go home to, nobody to complain to and nobody outside the orphanages to protect them. "They were utterly vulnerable and the orphanages were a magnet for the very worst of the brothers, the violent pedophiles," Magazanik said.

Magazanik said 10 years before Murphy abused Bradshaw, he was reported for child sex abuse but nothing was done about it. Twice as a child, Bradshaw reported his abuse and both times he was dismissed.

When he left Clontarf, Bradshaw told a judge his allegations but was labelled a liar and admitted to a psychiatric hospital, Magazanik said. In the 1990s, Bradshaw also participated in the criminal prosecution of Murphy, but prosecutors eventually dropped the case and he died without facing justice. □



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Former Indian PM Vajpayee dies after illness at age 93

By ASHOK SHARMA

NEW DELHI (AP) — Former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a Hindu nationalist who set off a nuclear arms race with rival Pakistan but later reached across the border to begin a groundbreaking peace process, died on Thursday after a prolonged illness. He was 93.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, where Vajpayee had been hospitalized for more than two months for treatment of a kidney infection and chest congestion, announced his death.

Vajpayee, a leader of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, had suffered a stroke in 2009.

A onetime journalist, Vajpayee was in many ways a political contradiction: He was the moderate leader of an often-strident Hindu nationalist movement. He was a lifelong poet who revered nature but who oversaw India's growth into a swaggering regional economic power. He was the prime minister who ordered nuclear tests



Students from an art school place flower petals around a painting of former Indian prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Mumbai, India, Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018.

Associated Press

in 1998, stoking fears of atomic war between India and Pakistan. Then, a few years later, it was Vajpayee who made the first moves toward peace.

Vajpayee's supporters saw him as a skilled politician who managed to avoid fanaticism, a man who refused to see the world in

black and white.

But his critics considered him the leader of a fanatic movement - a movement partially rooted in European fascism - that sought power by stoking public fears of India's large Muslim minority.

The one thing both sides could agree on was his honesty. Vajpayee was that rare thing in Indian politics: a man untainted by corruption scandals.

One of seven children of a schoolteacher in central India, Vajpayee joined India's Hindu revivalist political movement in his late 20s. Elected to Parliament in 1957, he became the best-known figure in its moderate wing, and helped the Bharatiya Janata Party become one of India's few national political parties.

One of India's longest-serving lawmakers, Vajpayee was elected nine times to the powerful Lok Sabha, or lower house of Parliament. He also served two terms in the Rajya Sabha, or upper house.

He led the party to its first national electoral victory in 1996, but lasted just 13 days as prime minister before he resigned in the face of a no-confidence motion. He returned to power in 1998 for 13 months after forging an alliance of 22 parties, mostly regional power brokers with disparate local

appeal. He again served as India's prime minister from 1999 to 2004.

It was in India's relations with Pakistan where Vajpayee's influence may last the longest.

While India's nuclear weapons program is believed to date to the 1980s, New Delhi had long insisted its atomic program was purely for peaceful purposes. That changed within a month of Vajpayee returning to the prime minister's post in 1998, when he approved a series of nuclear weapons tests that shocked the world and pushed Islamabad to launch its own tests.

But the next year, when Islamabad sent fighters across the cease-fire line that divides the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir between the nations, Vajpayee resisted military pressure to launch a broad counter-attack of Indian forces.

After 11 weeks and more than 1,000 deaths, Pakistan ordered the fighters to withdraw. India earned international praise for its caution. His peace efforts began with a groundbreaking bus ride to Lahore, Pakistan, in February 1999, where he met with then-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The diplomatic journey inaugurated the first regular bus service between the two nations.

Then, just before leaving of-

fice in 2004, he launched a peace process that, while often rocky, remains the basis of ongoing negotiations.

Vajpayee avoided bed-rock nationalist issues, like plans to build a Hindu temple at the site of a demolished north Indian mosque. But critics excoriated him for failing to quickly quell anti-Muslim riots that shook the state of Gujarat in 2002. More than 1,100 people, almost all of them Muslim, were killed in the riots, which began after a train fire killed 60 Hindu pilgrims. Muslims were accused of setting the fire, though the true cause was never known. Vajpayee's public response to the riots reflected his many contradictions. In the days after the pogrom, Vajpayee said he could not understand how Hindus could burn women and children alive, sadly asking a group of Muslim survivors: "Have we lost our way so much that we cease to be humans?" Just a year later, though, he told a mostly Hindu audience, "Wherever there are Muslims in large numbers, they do not want to live in peace."

While known for his poetry and gifted with a politician's common touch - as a parliamentarian he would take his dogs for walks in public - he was not known for public introspection. Few people could claim to understand what drove him. He never married, but lived with his adopted daughter, her husband and their daughter.

Vajpayee quickly dropped from sight after the BJP lost power to the long-dominant Congress party in 2004 elections. As his health failed, Vajpayee stayed out of the limelight even when the BJP returned to power a decade later and Narendra Modi became prime minister.

Modi's government presented Vajpayee as an icon, seeking inspiration from his political career and cashing in on his stature and popularity as a statesman acceptable across political divides. □

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Russia says drone attacks on its Syria base have increased

HEMEIMEEM AIR BASE, Syria (AP) — Russian air defense assets in Syria have downed 45 drones targeting their main base in the country, its military said Thursday, after an attack by the Islamic State group on a Syrian army base a day earlier killed seven troops.

The Russian Defense Ministry spokesman, Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, said that five of them were shot down in the last three days near the Hemeimeem air base. The base in the province of Latakia serves as the main hub for Russian operations in Syria.

Konashenkov said that while the drones appear primitive, they use sophisticated technologies and have a range of up to 100 kilometers (60 miles). He charged that the militants wouldn't have been able to assemble the drones without outside help, but didn't specify who might have assisted them.

The Russian general noted that the number of drone attacks have increased recently, adding that all of them were launched by militants based in the northern province of Idlib.

Idlib has become the main base for President Bashar Assad's foes, which moved there after being forced out from other areas across Syria as part of surrender deals often negotiated with the Russians on behalf of the Syrian government. With Russia's support, Assad's forces have regained control over key cities, like Aleppo, Homs and Daraa, the southern city where the uprising against the government began in March 2011. The authorities also have restored control over key highways, allowing safe travel all the way from the Jordanian border in the south to the central



A local resident rides motorcycle near portraits of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and Russian President Vladimir Putin in the town of Rastan, Syria, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018.

Associated Press

heritage site protected by the United Nation's cultural agency.

In Aleppo, Hazem Ajan, the director of the city's industrial cluster, told reporters that about 500 companies have resumed operations in the area since the government reclaimed control in 2016. Meanwhile, in eastern Syria, at least seven soldiers were killed with the Islamic State group attacked an army position near the city of Deir el-Zour, a monitoring group said Thursday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the attack on Wednesday near the Taim oil field was the militants' closest approach to the Deir el-Zour air base since the government recaptured it from the group last year. □

province of Hama.

In Homs, regional Gov. Talal Barazi told international reporters during a trip organized by the Russian Defense Ministry that a key bridge on a highway linking the Homs and Hama provinces that was destroyed in 2012 has been restored.

Barazi said that later this year his administration plans to start restoring the old part of Homs that was ravaged by fierce fighting in 2014.

He said that about 650 rebels who had left the province and moved to Idlib have come back to Homs and agreed to lay down their arms.

Barazi said that the historic city of Palmyra, home to one of the Middle East's most spectacular archaeological sites, could be open for tourist visits by next summer. Many of the city's archaeological treasures were badly damaged by the Islamic State group in 2015. Palmyra is a world

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Mexico City bans use of models at city events

By AMY GUTHRIE

MEXICO CITY (AP) —

They've long been an unmissable part of public events in Mexico, from soccer matches to trade fairs: attractive women hired to be greeters or simply as eye candy, sometimes scantily clad in short skirts and high heels or crop-tops and hot pants emblazoned with corporate logos.

Now Mexico City has prohibited the use of models known in local parlance as "edecanes" at events sponsored by the local government, breaking new ground for a country where deeply entrenched gender stereotypes often continue to relegate women to supporting roles in the workforce.

"This job should not exist," the capital's mayor, Jose Ramon Amieva, said in announcing the ban last week. "It goes against policies of gender equality."

In 2014, a group of female politicians organized a forum on the topic that concluded the edecan industry sometimes is a cover for prostitution and that the models face precarious employment conditions. It estimated more than 1 million Mexicans work as hostesses or hosts, most of them in the informal sector.

Online job postings for hostesses offer salaries ranging anywhere from 5,000 pesos (\$260) to 30,000 pesos (\$1,560) per month, well above the current minimum wage of about \$4.60 per day.

While edecanes' presence at corporate and govern-



A model strikes a pose for a photographer, as part of her registration to be represented by a model and "edecan" agency in Mexico City, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

ment events tends to be more demure than elsewhere — think blazers, high heels and slacks or knee-length skirts rather than skin-tight bodysuits — there have been some instances that attracted criticism.

In perhaps the most notorious one, the electoral institute hired a Playboy model to hand out envelopes at the first presidential debate ahead of the 2012 election. Julia Orayen emerged onstage in a tight white dress with a plunging neckline that revealed lots of cleavage, in sharp contrast to the button-up dress shirt and black suit donned by the lone female contender for the presidency, Josefina Vazquez.

And in 2016, the New Alliance party held a campaign event featuring sev-

eral women in tight white stretch pants and topless save for body paint in the party's signature turquoise and white.

At Mexico City government events, models have generally been hired to greet guests, pass microphones around for questions or simply smile onstage alongside mostly male speakers.

Indra Rubio, who coordinates the gender justice program for Oxfam in Mexico, called the capital's model ban a "small but very important step" for a country that's "still macho."

"We need to question as a society: Why is a woman's body seen as an object?" Rubio said. "This places the woman always at a disadvantage, if her participation in the workforce is subject to her physical ap-

pearance."

Hector Garcia, a booker at the Agencia de Modelos y Edecanes in Mexico City, called it "dignified work" and said the industry's reputation has been damaged by others who work as escorts but call themselves edecanes or models. He said the mayor's characterization of the profession "is morally harmful and mainly stigmatizes edecanes all across Mexico."

Model and edecan Mariel Guerrero Castano echoed that sentiment.

"He should not try to mix what other agencies or other groups, organizations are calling edecanes or models when really they are escorts or prostitution," Guerrero said. "Then there are the legitimate agencies ... that in truth are be-

ing stained by what these supposed agencies are doing."

The measure is part of a broader city initiative to give women greater responsibility in government. Amieva has committed to having women make up at least half the participants on expert panels at events and ensuring they get equal speaking time. City-wide, he said, public officials will be told to encourage professional growth for female employees based on their abilities and experience, not their appearance. Public servants who fail to comply may be fined.

Mexican institutions have made notable strides this year to incorporate more women in leadership positions. Nearly half the representatives in the incoming Congress will be female. Mexico City is about to get its first elected woman mayor in Claudia Sheinbaum, who won office in July. President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who takes office in December, has chosen women to fill half his Cabinet positions. Olga Sanchez, who is slated to run the Interior Ministry under Lopez Obrador, vowed on Saturday to change the "patriarchal system" so that men take on more domestic chores and children have more rights.

But as recently as last week, the Mexican Health Ministry organized a discussion on breastfeeding that was widely mocked for its all-male panel. □

LOCAL



Mickey's Foundation Aruba



ORANJESTAD — On Aruba specialized therapy as in pediatric physiotherapy, pediatric occupational and pre verbal speech therapy for children is non-existent. And this was exactly what Micky needed. But not only Micky suffered from the consequences of cerebral palsy, many other children on Aruba have severe motoric and/or mental problems.

Micky's Foundation was founded in December 2014. It is an initiative of the parents of Micky. They live in Aruba where Micky was born in 2009. Only five months old the mother and Micky were almost killed when a drunk driver crashed into their car. Micky survived the accident but, because of severe brain injury will remain with only 40% of his brain capacity for the rest of his

life. The mother fortunately was barely harmed.

Micky's Foundation aims to reach out to parents with

children in need of special care and education. It is an initiative by and for parents of Aruba. Our objective as parents is to organize specialized and intensive therapy in the homes of the children, for free. Furthermore raising awareness and creating an on-line community. Together we stand stronger. Micky's Foundation is a member of Plataforma pa Persona cu Limitacion (PPL) on Aruba.

The foundation, until now has provided specialized therapy to 72 children. We have around 60 children within our network. And we also work with a waiting list. Micky's Foundation organizes projects of three months each, to maximize progress with the children. The goal is to provide 20-25 children on Aruba with specialized intensive therapy in the homes of the families, for three months in a row. These projects will be organized three times a year, so continuity of therapy is guaranteed.

In December 2014 Micky's Foundation has started their first project with a pediatric physiotherapist and

a pre verbal speech therapist. They worked for three months, between 2-5 hours a week with 13 children. They also worked together with the local therapists who are treating the children on Aruba throughout the year. In August 2015 our 2nd project started with 15 children, which brought the total of treated children in 2015 to 22! In 2016-2017-2018 we have organized our 3rd, 4th, 5th (with for the first time a pediatric ergo therapist), 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th project with 24 children. We are now starting our 10th project and are busy preparing for project 11.

The therapy is always given with the assistance of at least one parent, so they can learn to give (easy) therapy exercises to their child. In this way we strive to continue helping our child's physical and mental development through a combination of (imported) therapy and stimulation techniques, improving the quality of life so that they in the end are healthy, active, and can participate in everyday life to the best of their ability. The therapists focus on working together

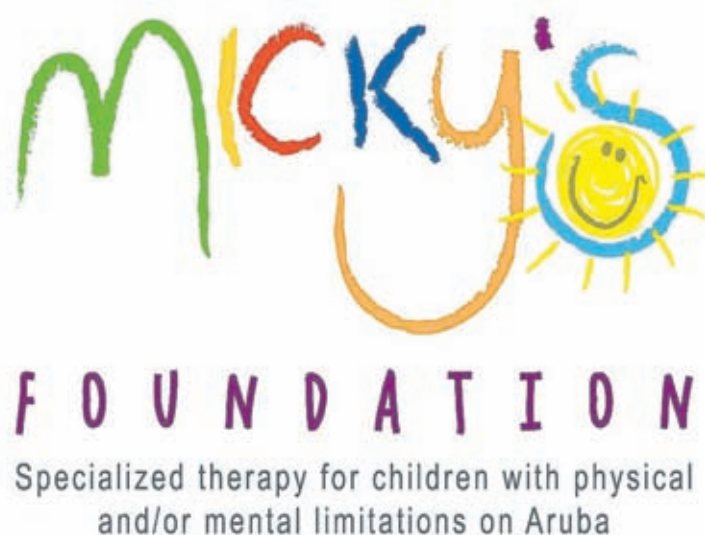
with local therapists and professionals. Transmitting their knowledge is essential for the continuity.

The board of Micky's Foundation consists of a chairman (Gijs de Rooij), a secretary (Audrey Knijn) and a treasurer (Harriette de Kool). The board has regular meetings to safeguard the quality of the activities.

In short Micky's Foundation on Aruba is about: Free therapy, specialized therapy, intensive therapy, continuity of therapy, transmitting knowledge and home therapy.

Adopting the "Yes we can" mentality and focusing on what they can do vs. what their limitations are. The projects are 100% sponsored by the community (service clubs, companies and subsidiaries). Together with the parents we form a support group to help each other in periods of our lives which are characterized by despair, distress lack of information and solitude.

For more information visit their Facebook page Micky's Foundation Aruba. □



CasMarie: Offering support to people with dementia



SAVANETA — Worldwide the dementia syndrome has been one of the major causes of crisis in the social and healthcare section. It is projected that by 2050 the amount of individuals with dementia will increase to more than 3 times the actual numbers.

A study conducted called "Women and Dementia" indicated that there are more women living with dementia compared to men. The prevalence is higher, they are at higher risk of getting dementia and their symptoms are heavier compared to men. In Aruba the amount of people with dementia is increasing and will continue to increase. Symptoms of the dementia syndrome are permanent change in the brain, change of attitude and functioning of the person. It's a progressive illness with a terminal end.

CasMarie is there to contribute in a positive and professional way to the quality of life for the person with dementia and their family. Dementia is a syndrome in which the person experiences different types of problems which prevents them from functioning independently. CasMarie offers guidance, support and even has a daycare for people with dementia.

CasMarie has been quite active providing different activities to their clients. Such as make up sessions to make the pretty ladies feel special, teaching them to make some snacks, playing bingo, artwork and so much more. Yesterday the memory group had a wonderful day out. Together with their activities coordinator Ranyilka and Sue-Ann, their volunteer of every Wednesday Jessie, intern Lisette Croes and her kids and also Maxine,

Hennie, Alvin, Patricia they all made it possible for the CasMarie clients to have a wonderful day out which started with a delicious breakfast at Bright Bakery and afterward continued to Casibari Rock Formation.

The clients walked around, enjoyed the nature, had some delicious snacks and refreshments and even enjoyed some music and danced around with tourists that were there visiting this tourist attraction. The clients had a wonderful time and enjoyed every single minute of it. The staff of CasMarie together with all their volunteers offers their clients a place where they can be themselves, enjoy their days and most of all a place they feel at home and look forward to come to everyday.

For more information check out their Facebook page CasMarie. □

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2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
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Aruba to Me



ORANJESTAD – Aruba To-day likes to welcome readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like

on Valentine's Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: Aruba to me is (Email: news@arubatoday.com)

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from Kimberly Avelin she wrote:
Aruba to me is home. Returning year after year with my family to the Hyatt since it's opening in 1992 has left a special place in my heart for this island. The welcoming nature of the people, the consistently beautiful weather and the variety of restaurants to choose from keeps Aruba on the top of my list for vacation. I have traveled to other islands and although I may have experienced great weather and enjoyed delicious food, I never feel at home like the way I do in Aruba.

Throughout the year I often find myself looking through old vacation pictures, chatting with my "Aruban family" and dreaming of the next visit I will make to the island (especially on the cold and snowy New York days!).

Some of my favorite memories are from family trips to Aruba and now new memories I have made with my boyfriend Anthony who is here on his third trip to the island. We all consider

Aruba and the Hyatt to be home. Whether it is James welcoming us as we arrive out front, Coral and Paola helping with our reservations, Fany and the staff at Ruinas in the morning, Tessie, Benjie, Augie and the beach attendants, everyone at the Hyatt goes above and beyond to make the stay enjoyable and all of us feel at home. There is no place like Aruba! ☐





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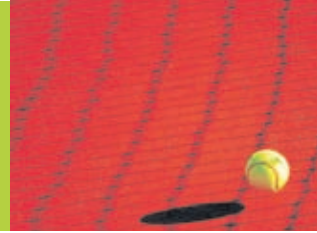
DIVI IMPACT BACK TO SCHOOL 2018

EAGLE BEACH — One of Divi Impact's reason for existence is to help the community in the area of education. Since the beginning Divi Impact has been helping members and employees' kids with back to school supplies and uniforms.

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SPORTS



Titans, Saints use new ways to keep NFL players cool in camp

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee Titans running back Dion Lewis has been so focused on football with his new team that he didn't realize until a few days into training camp just how special the benches on each sideline really are. Now he takes a couple of minutes whenever possible during practice to sit and cool off. Literally.

"It's great," said Lewis, who spent the past three years with New England. "It's real hot ... so whenever you use anything to make you cool down a little bit, I think it's a great tool. It's been here for the whole time, but I just realized it like probably last week. So definitely take advantage of that whenever I get a chance."

Keeping football players cool during the sweltering days of training camp is critical, especially in the wake of the heat-related death of Minnesota offensive tackle Korey Stringer in August 2001 and the June death of Maryland offensive lineman Jordan McNair. An attorney for the McNair family says a preliminary death certificate indicates the cause of death was heatstroke. Old-fashioned tubs filled with water and bags of ice await NFL players, even for teams staying at their headquarters this time of year. A few minutes provides a quick, but very wet, recovery once practice is over.

The Titans and New Orleans Saints both decided to give players a chance to cool off during practice, improving both safety and the workouts.

Continued on Page 22

LUCKY BRANDT



Snedeker shoots 59 at PGA Tour's Wyndham Championship

Brandt Snedeker reacts after making a birdie putt on the ninth hole during the first round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018. Sneaker shot a 59 in the first round.

Associated Press
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No. 1 Halep wins suspended match, advances at Cincy

By JOE KAY

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Top-ranked Simona Halep needed only eight points to complete a gritty comeback that was put on hold overnight by rain, beating qualifier Ajla Tomljanovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 at the Western & Southern Open on Thursday.

Rain resulted in three matches suspended overnight. Nobody was closer to finishing off a win than Halep, who had overcome an injury and staged a third-set rally when the storm arrived.

Fresh off her second Rogers Cup title, Halep arrived in Cincinnati looking to extend her momentum toward the U.S. Open. She appeared to aggravate

her lower back on a 105 mph serve during the second set on Wednesday night. After losing the first three games of the final set, she took a medical timeout for treatment.

Halep returned to the court and took control, running off four straight games for a 4-3 lead when rain arrived. Seventeen hours later, she was back on court and needed only 5 minutes to complete the win.

"I have learned that I don't have to give up, because anything can happen," she said.

Halep was scheduled to face Ashleigh Barty in the last match Thursday night, with the winner advancing to the quarterfinals. Rain returned shortly after Halep



Simona Halep, of Romania, returns to Ajla Tomljanovic, of Australia, at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

left the court, delaying play again and creating chaos with the schedule.

When the courts were dried, Amanda Anisimova beat qualifier Petra Martic 6-4, 6-3 in a match suspended overnight. Fourth-seeded Juan Martin del Potro beat Hyeon Chung

6-2, 6-3, finally completing the second round in late afternoon. The winners faced the challenge of playing essentially two full matches in one day.

While the suspended matches wrapped up, the third round began on other courts in a tournament that

had already lost top players. No. 2 Caroline Wozniacki retired from her match Wednesday night because of an injured left knee, her second straight disappointing exit from a tournament. Wozniacki lost her opening match last week in Montreal. □

Davis Cup overhauled for 2019 with season-ending team event

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Sports Writer

The Davis Cup is getting a radical makeover in hopes of reviving an event that has lost some luster.

Beginning next year, the top team event in men's tennis will be decided with a season-ending, 18-team tournament at a neutral site.

The International Tennis Federation believes this format will be more attractive to elite players who often pass on competing for their countries because of a crowded schedule.

Teams will play one week in February to advance to the championship in November, replacing the current Davis Cup format that is played over four weekends throughout the year. Players will compete for what the ITF says rivals Grand Slam prize money.

The \$3 billion, 25-year agreement was approved Thursday at the organization's conference in Orlando, Florida. Two-thirds of the delegates needed to vote for the reforms, and 71



In this Nov. 26, 2017, file photo, members of the French team lift up their trophies after France won the Davis Cup final at the Pierre Mauroy stadium in Lille, northern France.

Associated Press

percent did.

Beginning in 2019, 24 nations will compete in a home-or-away qualifying round in February, with the 12 winners advancing to the final tournament. They will be joined by the four semifinalists from the previous year, along with two wild-card teams, who need to be in either the top 50 of the Davis Cup rankings or have a top-10 singles player to be eligible.

The finalists will be placed into six, three-team groups for round-robin play, involv-

ing two singles matches and one doubles, all best-of-three-sets — instead of the current best-of-five format featuring four singles matches and one doubles. The winners, along with the next two teams with the best records, will advance to the single-elimination quarterfinals.

The first championship will be held on an indoor hard-court from Nov. 18-24, 2019, in either Madrid or Lille, France. ITF President David Haggerty said he expected that announcement in the

next two weeks.

The new event was developed in partnership with the investment group Kosmos, which was founded by Barcelona and Spain soccer player Gerard Pique.

The original plan called for simply an 18-team championship at the end of the year, but was amended after some nations objected to the loss of home-site matches. So those were added to the proposal as the qualifying round, though that still wasn't enough for critics of the plan who felt neutral-site matches were too much of a change for an event that dates to 1900.

"Those that were opposed were generally opposed because they may believe that home-and-away should be the way that the format is played and always should be every round," Haggerty said, adding he believed the February qualifying round "gives us the combination of history and tradition that we maintain as well as innovation with the finals."

The U.S. Tennis Association was among the national federations that backed the changes.

The organization said the new format will "project Davis Cup into the 21st century" and elevate the competition to "the heights it deserves."

The Americans will play at Croatia in this year's semifinals in September, with Spain and France meeting in the other semifinals. Top-ranked Rafael Nadal is expected to play for Spain, but Roger Federer has frequently passed on playing for Switzerland.

The new format would cut in half the Davis Cup time commitment. Pique is among those who think the World Cup-style format is the boost the event needs. "This is the beginning of a new stage that guarantees the pre-eminent and legitimate place that the Davis Cup should have as a competition for national teams while adapting to the demands of this professional sport at the highest level," he said in a statement. □

'Really cool feeling': Brandt Snedeker shoots 59 at Wyndham

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Brandt Snedeker predicted low scores at the Wyndham Championship — but not this low.

Snedeker shot an 11-under 59 on Thursday, falling one shot shy of matching the PGA Tour record.

He made a 20-foot putt on his final hole to become the 10th player in tour history to break 60. Jim Furyk set the record with a 58 in the final round of the Travelers Championship in 2016.

"I better be smiling," Snedeker said. "I don't do this every day."

This is the third consecutive year the PGA Tour has had a sub-60 round. Snedeker is the first to shoot 59 since Adam Hadwin in the third round of the 2017 CareerBuilder Challenge.

It gave him a four-stroke lead after one round.

Ryan Moore and John Oda shot 63s, and Martin Flores, D.A. Points, Brett Stegmayer, David Hearn, Abraham Ancer, Ollie Schniederjans and Jonathan Byrd had 64s.

Snedeker — who said a day earlier that the tournament would turn into a "birdie-fest" — began the round at par-70 Sedgefield Country Club with a bogey at No. 10, and took off from there.

He played the front nine in 27, including an eagle 2 on the par-4 sixth hole when he holed out from 176 yards.

After that shot, Snedeker said a 59 felt like a real possibility. He remembered a non-tour event he played in China in which he was one putt from that score, but those thoughts "got in the way."

"To know what you're trying to do and step up and have a 20-footer (on the final hole) and know what it means, I was very aware of what was going on, and to knock that putt in was really special," Snedeker said. "To know I'm a part of a small club on tour and not very many people have done this, really cool feeling right now."

Snedeker, the 2012 FedEx Cup champion, won the Wyndham in 2007. He broke Si Woo Kim's 2-year-old Wyndham record of 60 and had the best opening round in this event's history. Arjun Atwal had a 61 in 2010.

"The trick for him is, he's playing great. Now he's just got to rest, relax and start over tomorrow from scratch and go play three more good rounds," said Furyk, who also shot a 59 at the BMW Championship in 2013. "It's awesome to see." It's been a somewhat frustrating, turbulent year for Snedeker. He has three top-10 finishes and two missed cuts in his last seven events and has not won on tour since 2016.

During his first 16 tournaments of the season, he finished in the top 10 just once.

"Nobody could see this coming — trust me," Snedeker said. "As much as I tried to positive self-talk myself into playing good, I didn't see 59 coming today, to be honest with you. ... Luckily, it kind of clicked all day today, and hopefully it will keep clicking for the next three days."

At No. 80 on the points list entering the final event of the tour's regular season, he's nowhere near the playoff bubble and his spot at The Northern Trust next week in New Jersey seems safe. But that ranking is his lowest since the tour's post-season format debuted in 2007.

During his tie for 42nd at the PGA Championship last week in St. Louis, Snedeker says he "kind of found something" when he simplified some swing fundamentals and began to feel better about that part of his game.

Then, he spent the first round showing it off.

Snedeker, who began his round on the back nine, reeled off four consecutive birdies on Nos. 13-16. He then got even hotter on his final nine holes, with six birdies in addition to the shot of

the day on No. 6. But he missed a 3-foot birdie putt on No. 8 that would have made a 58 possible.

"Could have been even more special," he said, "but happy with the way everything turned out."

Moore, who won here in 2009, made a move up the leaderboard in the afternoon with five birdies in a six-hole span on the front nine. Oda, a second-year pro coming off a tie for third earlier this month in the Barracuda Championship, had three consecutive birdies on the back nine to pull even with Moore.

"You see a round like (Snedeker's) and maybe kind of encourage you there's birdies out there, that the course is playing scorable and there's rounds to be had," Moore said.

"I kind of took that mindset of, well, better get out there and make some birdies if you don't want to be 10, 11 shots behind by the end of this day. Like, let's try and close that gap a little bit." □



Brandt Snedeker lines up a birdie putt on the ninth hole during the first round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018. Sneaker shot a 59 in the first round.

Associated Press



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Acuna hit by opening pitch, Braves top Marlins 5-2

By The Associated Press
ATLANTA (AP) — Slugging rookie Ronald Acuna Jr. was hit by a pitch before he could take the Marlins deep again, but Dansby Swanson filled the power void for Atlanta, hitting a two-run homer that led the Braves to a 5-2 win over Miami on Wednesday night. Acuna, who had hit lead-off homers in the last three games and homered in five straight overall, didn't get a chance to extend the streak. Jose Urena plunked him on the left elbow with a fastball on his first pitch of the day, triggering a melee. Benches and bullpens for both teams emptied onto the field twice after the pitch. No punches were thrown. Urena and Braves manager Brian Snitker were ejected.



Atlanta Braves' Ronald Acuna Jr. (13) reacts after being hit by a pitch from Miami Marlins' Jose Urena during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018, in Atlanta. Both dugouts emptied and Urena was ejected.

Acuna instead became the 11th batter to be hit by a pitch from Urena this season, tied for the most in the National League. Trainer George Poulis hovered over Acuna, who sat on the ground near the batter's box while players swarmed near the mound. Acuna left the game in the second inning. He took his position in left field and then walked off the field. There was no immediate update on Acuna's apparent injury. The NL East-leading Braves, who began the night two games ahead of Philadelphia, have won five straight. The last-place Mar-

lins have lost five straight and eight of nine. Kevin Gausman (7-9) allowed two runs in six innings. A.J. Minter pitched a perfect ninth for his 11th save in 12 opportunities. Jarlin Garcia (1-2) was the loser.

DODGERS 4, GIANTS 3, 12 INNINGS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Brian Dozier's sacrifice fly in the 12th inning gave Los Angeles the victory over San Francisco, ending a five-game losing streak. The struggling Dodgers bullpen coughed up a 3-0 lead in the eighth when rookie Caleb Ferguson gave up a

three-run homer to Andrew McCutchen.

But Los Angeles held San Francisco scoreless over the four innings that followed, with Pedro Baez (4-3) throwing the final two innings to earn the win.

Left-hander Hyun-Jin Ryu, making his first start since suffering a serious groin injury on May 2, was brilliant in his return. He threw six scoreless innings, holding the Giants to three hits without allowing a walk and striking out six.

Yasmani Grandal led off the 12th with a double against Casey Kelly (0-1) and was singled to third

before Dozier's flyball ended it.

PHILLIES 7, RED SOX 4

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Wilson Ramos had three extra-base hits and three RBIs, helping Philadelphia beat Boston in his first game with his new team.

The Phillies remained two games behind first-place Atlanta in the NL East. They split a two-game inter-league series with the major league-leading Red Sox for the second time in three weeks.

Ramos, the two-time All-Star catcher acquired from Tampa Bay on July 31, made a big impact after

missing a month because of a strained hamstring. He hit his second career triple and first in seven years leading off the bottom of the sixth, chugging around the bases after his liner off Joe Kelly (4-1) to right-center took an odd bounce off the wall. Ramos scored on pinch-hitter Scott Kingery's sacrifice fly to give the Phillies a 4-3 lead. He hammered a two-run double with two outs in the seventh off Drew Pomeranz to extend the lead to 6-3 and scored on Maikel Franco's single.

Seven relievers combined to allow one unearned run in 6 2/3 innings. Tommy Hunter (4-2) earned the win by getting one out in the sixth. Seranthony Dominguez got the last four outs for his 13th save.

CUBS 8, BREWERS 4

CHICAGO (AP) — Anthony Rizzo homered, drove in three runs and stole two bases in his return to the cleanup spot, and Chicago beat Milwaukee to restore a three-game lead in the NL Central.

Jason Heyward added three hits and two RBIs to help Chicago bounced back from a 7-0 loss in the opener of the two-game series. David Bote had two hits, scored twice and made barehanded play at third base in his first action since he hit a game-ending grand slam Sunday night against Washington. □



Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig, right, shoves San Francisco Giants catcher Nick Hundley, left, as they argue while relief pitcher Tony Watson, below, runs in and home plate umpire Eric Cooper gets between them during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Dodgers' Yasiel Puig suspended 2 games, fined

NEW YORK (AP) — Los Angeles outfielder Yasiel Puig has been suspended for two games and fined an undisclosed fine for fighting and inciting a bench-clearing incident against San Francisco.

Major League Baseball announced the sanctions Thursday, two days after the Cuban player took a swing at Giants catch Nick Hundley in the seventh inning of the Dodgers' 2-1

home loss. Hundley also was fined.

The fracas started when Puig swatted his bat in frustration after fouling off a pitch from Tony Watson, and Hundley said something to the slugger while still in his crouch.

Puig turned around and walked toward Hundley, the catcher stood up, and they argued face to face before Puig shoved Hundley twice.

That brought players out of the benches and bullpens. Puig and Hundley were momentarily separated, but Puig ducked around teammates, coaches and manager Dave Roberts before reaching back to hit Hundley. He smacked Hundley with an open hand across the front of his catcher's mask.

Puig also got into a skirmish with Giants pitcher Madison Bumgarner in 2014. □

Gordon breaks scoreless tie with HR in 12th, M's top A's 2-0

By The Associated Press
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Light-hitting Dee Gordon homered off Yusmeiro Petit in the 12th inning to break a scoreless tie and Seattle beat Oakland to avoid a three-game sweep. Jean Segura had four hits to help Seattle close within 2 1/2 games of the A's for the second AL wild card. Seattle's Mike Leake pitched eight innings of two-hit ball with six strikeouts and one walk. Oakland's Brett Anderson went 7 2/3 without allowing a run in his longest outing since June 16, 2015.

Nick Martini had three hits for the A's and Matt Olson added two. Oakland entered the day one game behind first-place Houston. Both teams squandered numerous scoring opportunities before Seattle scraped together two runs on one hit. After Petit (5-3) got leadoff man Denard Span to ground out, Mike Zunino walked. Gordon hit the next pitch over the right-field wall. Gordon's only other home run was a solo shot against Cleveland on April 1 in Seattle's third game of the season.

James Pazos (3-1) retired one batter for the victory. Edwin Diaz pitched the 12th for his major league-leading 47th save in 50 opportunities.

METS 16, ORIOLES 5
BALTIMORE (AP) — Kevin Plawewski hit his first career grand slam during a nine-run sixth inning, Brandon Nimmo went 5 for 5 with three RBIs and New York pounded Baltimore.

Todd Frazier homered and drove in four runs to help the Mets earn a split of the two-game interleague series. A home run by Wilmer Flores in the ninth enabled the Mets to reach a season high in runs.

Zack Wheeler (8-6) gave up one run and five hits over five innings to win his sixth straight start. The right-hander was removed from the game by manager Mickey Callaway after the Mets sent 12 batters to

the plate in a lengthy sixth against Dylan Bundy (7-11) and three relievers.

In the eighth, Mets backup third baseman Jack Reinheimer got his first major league hit, a single up the middle off Cody Carroll.

RAYS 6, YANKEES 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Mallex Smith hit a two-run homer, rookie Brandon Lowe got his first two major league hits and Tampa Bay beat New York.

Kevin Kiermaier, who was mired in a 4-for-46 slump in August, had two hits, scored a run and drove in one for the Rays. They have won seven of their past nine games against New York. Reliever Ryan Yarbrough (11-5) then entered and was credited with the win after shutting down the Yankees over four scoreless innings. He allowed only two hits and struck out three.

Tampa Bay took advantage of an ineffective Luis Cessa (1-3), who was recalled from Triple-A before the game to make a start in place of an injured CC Sabathia.

Miguel Andujar homered for New York.

ASTROS 12, ROCKIES 1

HOUSTON (AP) — Evan Gattis and Tyler White hit two homers each, Yuli Gurriel added a two-run shot and Houston routed Colorado to snap a five-game skid.

Gerrit Cole (11-5) struck out 12 and the defending World Series champions stopped a nine-game home losing streak with their first win in Houston since July 14, their last game before beginning a 10-game road trip. Houston's five home runs were a season high, and the run total was more than the Astros managed in their last four games combined. The win, combined with Oakland's loss to Seattle, helped the Astros extend their lead in the AL West to two games, with a series against the Athletics coming up next.

Tyler Anderson (6-5) was the loser.

BLUE JAYS 6, ROYALS 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Curtis Granderson hit a grand slam, Marco Estrada pitched effectively into the seventh inning and Toronto beat Kansas City.

Jorge Lopez (0-2), who was making his Royals debut after being acquired July 27 from Milwaukee as part of the Mike Moustakas trade, threw a 2-0 fastball that Granderson drove over the Royals' right-field bullpen gate with two outs in the fourth inning.

It was Granderson's 10th career grand slam and his second this year, both against the Royals. The first was April 18 in Toronto. He has 19 home runs and 50 RBIs in 106 games against Kansas City. Royals pitchers have yielded a major league-leading 10 grand slams. Estrada (6-9) gave up four runs on six hits over 6 2/3 innings to pick up his first career victory at Kauffman Stadium. Salvador Perez homered twice for Kansas City.

TWINS 6, PIRATES 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Logan Forsythe had three RBIs, the Minnesota bullpen tossed 5 1/3 shutout innings and the Twins beat Pittsburgh.

Oliver Drake, Gabriel Moya (3-0), Tyler Duffey and Taylor Rogers scattered five hits and struck out three before Trevor Hildenberger picked up his third save in four chances.

Minnesota is 16-4 in its last 20 home games.

Forsythe's two-run single off reliever Edgar Santana (2-2) highlighted a three-run sixth as the Twins took a 5-4 lead. Bobby Wilson homered in the seventh.

Josh Harrison had three hits



Seattle Mariners' Dee Gordon, right, celebrates after hitting a two-run home run that scored Mike Zunino, left, against the Oakland Athletics during the 12th inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif., Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018.

Associated Press

for the Pirates.

WHITE SOX 6, TIGERS 5

DETROIT (AP) — Jose Abreu and Matt Davidson each hit two-run home runs to lift Chicago past Detroit.

The White Sox have won two in a row after losing six of seven. The Tigers have lost nine of 12.

Carlos Rodon (4-3) im-

proved to 3-0 in his last seven starts, giving up three runs on five hits and a walk in eight innings. Luis Avilan got Victor Reyes to fly out to shallow center, earning his second save.

Jordan Zimmermann (5-5) took the loss, allowing six runs on nine hits, including the two home runs. □

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TITANS, SAINTS

Continued from Page 17

With a new coach in Mike Vrabel, the Titans put a bench on each side of their three practice fields, giving players a chance to recover when the temperature during morning practices can feel like 90 degrees.

"I don't think our players have done a good enough job of taking advantage of it, but, we're trying it out," Vrabel said.

"Going to Miami and Jacksonville in the early games here, if there's anything we can do to keep our guys as fresh as possible on the sideline, we're going to try."

In hot and humid Jacksonville, the Jaguars have had such cooling benches for years in the shade and near huge fans to use during breaks.

The New Orleans Saints have used a cooling tent for years, even when holding training camp at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. With the tent kept off to the side of the football fields, it wound up too far away for the Saints to slip over during practices. This August, an 18-wheeler dropped off what looks like a massive storage trailer.



Tennessee Titans running backs Dion Lewis (33) and Derrick Henry (22) rest on a cooling bench during NFL football training camp Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Inside, it's actually a chilly 25 degrees featuring dim lighting and black padded folding chairs.

The Saints can walk in for a quick refresher or sit down to drop the body temperature. If needed, coach Sean Payton can put a whole position group inside at once, especially effective for big men such as offensive or defensive linemen.

"As bodies go in there, it goes to 28," Payton said. "But it's almost three times colder than a tent."

Payton said colleges such as LSU and Alabama are among those already using the cooling trailer. Being in muggy Louisiana, the Saints didn't have to go far to find a company that could help them out.

Payton said when the temperatures soar, teams can't cool players down enough. The trailer allows New Orleans to keep the Saints refreshed enough to practice, not just survive until the final horn signals a blissful end.

"You want to not just be

running plays, and then you also have an answer if someone is going through a second-level heat illness or God forbid something more serious," Payton said. "But, the first thing we want to be able to do is cool the core temperatures down. We've always taken a lot of breaks, so we've handled the heat well. We've had to. But if you went back to Millsaps even, we had a cool tent. This is just much colder."

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers don't use cooling benches.

For the first time, they are making good use of an indoor practice facility — complete with air conditioning — that was completed earlier this year. Despite playing in Florida, the Buccaneers had never had an indoor practice field before now, and coach Dirk Koetter has used it liberally. He's started several practices outdoors before going inside where the Bucs even installed bleachers for fans attending open sessions. Koetter also keeps the Bucs inside for walkthroughs to avoid the heat. Just standing near the cooling bench is comfortable enough to watch an entire practice without even needing to sit on the chilled aluminum seats. Titans running back Derrick Henry tested the cooling bench last weekend and liked what he found. A big man at 6-foot-3, Henry says he won't use it too much to avoid stiffening up. Walking by to cool off? "It feels good, especially because it's hot out here," Henry said. "It's camp, and we got to put it to use. It's a good tool for us to cool our body off, so we're ready when we go back out there." □

Johnny Manziel says he had 'delayed onset concussion'

MONTREAL (AP) — Johnny Manziel described his condition as a "delayed onset concussion" and said he had headaches.

The Montreal quarterback spoke on a podcast Thursday, five days after taking a big hit and fumbling at the goal line in the Alouettes' 24-17 loss at Ottawa. Manziel was cleared to stay in the game after being checked out by the referee, the league injury spotter and the team's doctor. He missed practice Tuesday and was placed under concussion protocol Wednesday. "As far as him going to get blood work done, that was in relation to his medication (for bipolar disorder)," coach Mike Sherman said. "The side-effects of his medication are very similar to what someone who took a blow to the head could be." Man-



In this Saturday, Aug. 11, 2018 file photo, Montreal Alouettes quarterback Johnny Manziel (2) passes during first-half CFL football game action against the Ottawa Redblacks in Ottawa, Ontario.

Associated Press

ziel attended team meetings, but didn't practice this week. He didn't speak to the media. "I walked by him today and I asked how he was feeling and he said OK, but it wasn't OK good, it was just kind of OK," Sherman said. With Manziel out, Antonio Pipkin will start Saturday night at Edmonton. He'll be the injury-ravaged Alouettes' fifth starter and sixth quarterback overall in nine games. Montreal is 1-7 this season and has won just once in 19 games going back a year. □





In this July 23, 2017, file photo, Kasey Kahne (5) celebrates winning the NASCAR Brickyard 400 auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

NASCAR driver Kasey Kahne retiring after 15 Cup seasons

CONCORD, N.C. (AP) — Kasey Kahne announced Thursday that he will retire from full-time racing in NASCAR and plans to focus on the sprint car team he owns.

Kahne said in a Twitter post that he is at ease with the decision after 15 years racing in NASCAR. Kahne, from Enumclaw, Washington, made it to NASCAR via sprint car racing and his Kasey Kahne Racing team competes in the World of Outlaws series.

KKR driver Brad Sweet won the prestigious Knoxville (Iowa) Nationals last weekend and the 38-year-old Kahne was present for the victory.

"I'm not sure what the future holds for me," Kahne said. "The highs don't outweigh the lows and the grueling schedule takes a toll on your quality of life. I need to spend more time doing the things I enjoy and love and that's spending time with (son) Tanner and my sprint car teams."

The former Hendrick Motorsports driver has 18 victories, including a playoff-clinching win last season at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. That win came amid speculation that Hendrick would part ways with Kahne following six seasons, and Hendrick made it official two weeks later.

Kahne signed with Leavine Family Racing for 2018. He has one top-five finish in 23 starts for Leavine, and said the team offered him a ride for next year but Kahne did not want to commit to NASCAR. The Cup schedule is 38 weekends.

Kahne's announcement came one day after 43-year-old Elliott Sadler said he will walk away from NASCAR after 21 seasons.

Sadler is 43 and currently drives for JR Motorsports in the second-tier Xfinity Series. He spent 12 full-time seasons in the Cup Series driving for Wood Brothers Racing, Robert Yates Racing, Evernham Motorsports and Richard Petty Motorsports. He is retiring to spend more time with his two young children.

They are the latest in a growing list of NASCAR drivers who have hanged up their helmets in recent years, following Danica Patrick, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Carl Edwards, three-time champion Tony Stewart and four-time champ Jeff Gordon. □



In this April 29, 2018, file photo, WBC Heavyweight Champion Deontay Wilder speaks at a press conference in Talladega, Ala.

AP Interview: Wilder to announce next fight _ if Tyson Fury wins

By TERRIN WAACK
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder is on a business trip this weekend in Belfast. He'll be ringside as a TV commentator for Saturday's fight between Tyson Fury and Francesco Pianeta. But even Wilder has something riding on the outcome of this matchup.

If Fury wins, Wilder plans to challenge him to a fight they've already discussed — right then and there.

"Why not?" Wilder told The Associated Press.

"You got two heavyweights in the same room from the same division. You got the champion, then you got the other champion. It's only right."

Wilder holds the WBC belt. Fury is the lineal champion, having beat Wladimir Klitschko in 2015. The lineal champion is a title given to the fighter who defeats the last fighter to hold all the boxing belts in a weight class. And Wilder wants that moniker. "This fight is real," Wilder said. "The fight is on."

As long as Fury wins. Showtime Sports president Stephen Espinoza said the deal between Wilder and

Fury is virtually done. The only details that need to be ironed out are the specific date and location.

Wilder said Las Vegas. Espinoza said that's the natural option, but New York is another strong contender. Nov. 17 is a possible date, according to Showtime. Both parties agreed that Showtime, which has shown 10 of Wilder's fights, will get the Wilder-Fury bout — available on pay-per-view.

"Wilder vs. Fury is a really intriguing fight both because of the styles in the ring and the personalities outside the ring," Espinoza said. "Deontay and Tyson are two of the most likable and most entertaining characters in boxing. . But all the entertainment aside, it is a high-level heavyweight fight between two of the top guys in the division and two huge athletes at 6-6 and 6-7, the two tallest and biggest guys in the sport today."

Both are undefeated, too. Wilder is 40-0 with 39 knockouts. Fury is 26-0 with 19 KOs.

Saturday will mark Fury's second fight since he beat Klitschko. He was out of the ring for more than two

years due to mental health and drug problems before making his comeback in June.

Fury was stripped of the IBF belt soon after beating Klitschko for not fighting a mandatory challenger. He relinquished his WBO and WBA titles on the day his license was suspended in 2016.

Wilder last fought in March. "When I look at that fight between me and Fury, I just see two awkward fighters up in there," Wilder said. "One trying to outsmart the other. It's definitely going to be the battle of the wizards. Who's going to be smarter? Who's going to be faster? Who's going to be able to have a quick reaction?"

"Where I'm sitting, and with the knowledge I know and have in this sport, I know Deontay Wilder is going to be a bit of all of the above," he added.

The last fight Wilder tried to set up fell through. WBA, WBO and IBF champ Anthony Joshua (21-0, 20 KOs) and Wilder failed to come to an agreement after months of discussion. Instead, Joshua will fight Alexander Povetkin (34-1, 24 KOs) on Sept. 22 at Wembley Stadium in London. □

Using common social media tactics to subvert US elections

By MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The latest efforts to disrupt the U.S. midterm elections through Facebook manipulation seem to be following a persuasion playbook refined by legitimate companies and organizations — but with a twist.

The aim of these possibly Russia-linked perpetrators appears to be to draw in as many people as possible with emotional appeals and then spur them to action.

In this case, though, the action is public protest rather than affinity marketing, and the goal is to sow dissension rather than to build brand awareness.

"They're almost functioning like social media editors, figuring out what the trending topics are in the U.S. and figuring out where they can insert themselves," said Jennifer Grygiel, a communications professor at Syracuse University.

The idea, experts say, is to widen the rifts in the U.S. population via propaganda that is less about winning hearts and minds and much more about setting Americans against one another.

The removed pages share "moralistic language" and appeal to emotions, said Jay Van Bavel, a New York University psychology professor who studies group identity. "The conflict already existed but they're stirring it up, picking at a scab."

David Stewart, a marketing and business law professor at Loyola Marymount University, said those behind the scheme are trying to create an "us versus them" mentality, without which Facebook users might not be so polarized.

Groups tied to the Russian government have been trying to meddle in U.S. politics since at least the 2016 elections. In February, the Justice Department charged 13 Russians and three companies with plotting to aid Donald Trump's presidential campaign through fake Facebook posts, ads and groups.



This Nov. 1, 2017, file photo shows some of the Facebook ads linked to a Russian effort to disrupt the American political process and stir up tensions around divisive social issues, released by members of the U.S. House Intelligence committee, are photographed in Washington.

More recently, Facebook said it had removed 32 apparently fake accounts and pages on Facebook and Instagram created by "bad actors" involved in what Facebook calls inauthentic political behavior ahead of the U.S. midterms. Although Facebook didn't specifically say Russians were behind the latest efforts, the reported activity shared many similarities with Russian influence campaigns during the 2016 presidential election.

It isn't clear how well the efforts worked or if they have swayed the outcome of elections, either in 2016 or this time around. Sowing discord, however, could prompt people to stay home instead of voting — or to vote for more extreme candidates who support their view, experts say. Discord could also lead to real-world violence and conflict.

During the 2016 elections, Russian agents bought a slew of issue-based ads to push arguments for and against immigration, gun rights and other issues. Many of them attempted to stoke racial divisions by mentioning police brutality or disparaging the Black Lives Matter movement.

Russian agents took advantage of the same tools available to businesses and groups to target messages with precision. One video parodying Trump was targeted at blacks who also were interested in BlackNews.com, HuffPost Politics or HuffPost Black Voices, for instance.

This time around, the efforts seem more focused on calling people to participate in protests and take action, at least based on the limited information provided by Facebook so far. The removed accounts ap-

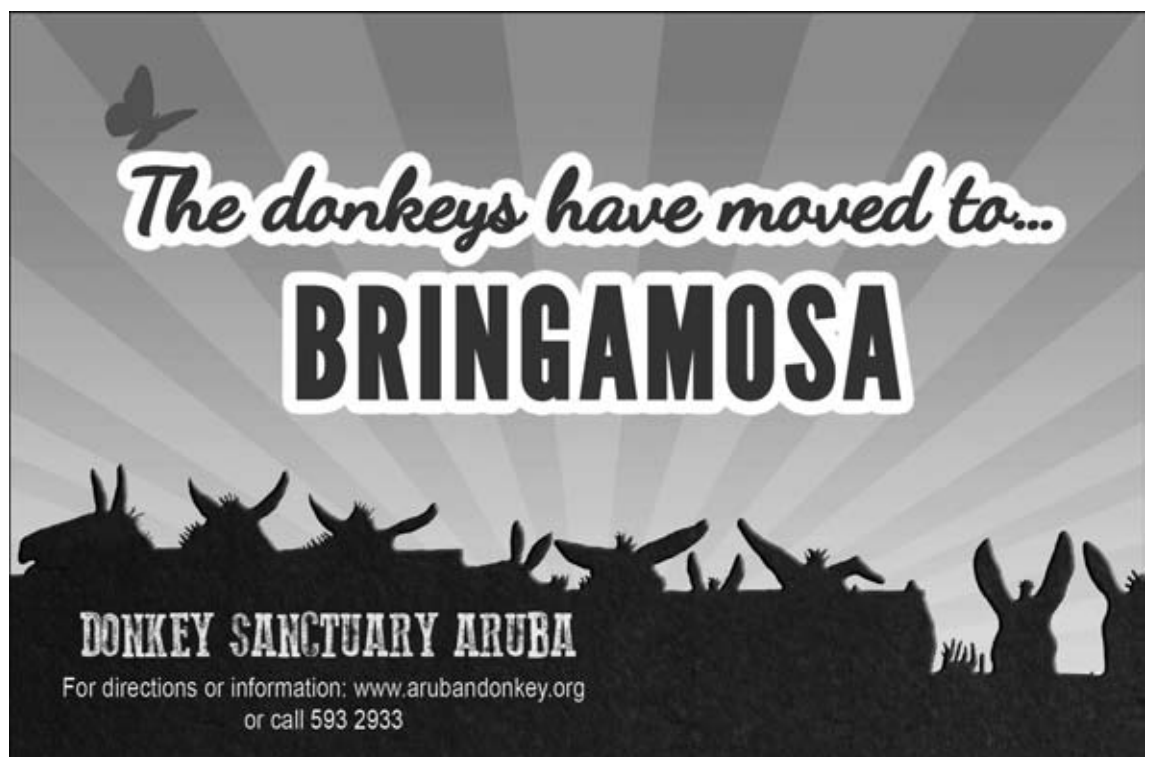
pear designed "to trigger standoffs between genuine Americans, bringing the risk of real-life violence from false stories," wrote the Digital Forensic Research Lab of the Atlantic Council, which has been working with Facebook to study misinformation and foreign interference on its services. Those behind the accounts aren't spending a lot of time creating original posts. Instead, they do what many other people do on social media to get likes and clicks: They steal or re-share other people's posts.

From there, legitimate organizations sometimes spread the messages further.

"Americans thus became the unwitting amplifiers of Russian information operations," the Atlantic Council researchers wrote.

One indication that these efforts are working is that legitimate activist groups seem to have gotten swept up in some of the event listings created by these purportedly fake groups. For instance, several anti-racism groups attached themselves to a Washington protest called "No Unite the Right 2."

Though April Goggans, an organizer of Black Lives Matter DC, said the protest was organized by real people in the U.S., the event listing on Facebook was created by a left-leaning account that Facebook identified as fake. Facebook cancelled the account — and the listing — less than two weeks before it was to take place. Overall, the 32 accounts Facebook deleted recently tried to organize about 25 events. About half took place, even though the unknown agents behind them had no one on the ground and had to coerce people into attending the events purely through Facebook. Van Bavel said that suggests the agents behind this "have a fairly sophisticated understanding of what our weak spots are psychologically as Americans." □



US stocks climb ahead of China trade talks; Walmart surges

By MARLEY JAY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks are surging Thursday as China and the U.S. prepare to hold their first trade discussions in months, a potential sign of progress toward ending the trade war between them. Walmart is surging after the retailer said its sales climbed in second quarter. Metals prices rose sharply, a day after a big drop, and the price of crude oil moved higher.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index climbed 28 points, or 1 percent, to 2,846 as of 12:35 p.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 401 points, or 1.6 percent, to 25,563 as Walmart and Boeing made big gains. The Nasdaq composite rose 65 points, or 0.8 percent, to 7,839.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks added 18 points, or 1.1 percent to 1,689.

It's the latest wild swing for stocks. The S&P 500 is on track for its biggest gain since June 1 just a day after its biggest loss in six weeks. Stocks slumped Friday and Monday as investors worried about Turkey's current



In this April 26, 2018, file photo, Vincent Pepe enjoys some fresh air outside the New York Stock Exchange where he works trading cotton shares for VLM Commodities in the Financial District in New York.

cy crisis, then rebounded Tuesday only to fall again Wednesday on rising concerns about China's economic growth.

TRADE HOPES: China will send a trade envoy to Washington in late August in a new attempt to end the trade dispute between

the world's two largest economies. The countries are in conflict over technology policy and China's trade surplus with the U.S. The two sides haven't held talks since early June. After those talks, both countries put taxes on \$34 billion in each other's imports.

Those taxes are set to rise next week, and both countries have threatened even larger increases.

WOW FOR WALMART: Walmart posted some of its strongest sales growth in a decade and its online revenue grew 40 percent, a faster pace than it report-

ed in the first quarter.

The stock jumped 10 percent to \$99.24, which wiped out its losses from earlier this year.

Other retailers and consumer goods companies also edged higher. Target added 1.6 percent to \$82 and Procter & Gamble rose 1.7 percent to \$83.67. Amazon climbed 1 percent to \$1,901.21.

SOFTWARE SURGE: Symantec jumped 7.1 percent to \$19.88 after the activist investment firm Starboard Value disclosed a 5.8 percent stake in the company and said it plans to nominate five directors for spots on Symantec's board of directors.

Symantec said it has been talking to Starboard for the past several weeks and is evaluating the candidates it nominated.

DEPARTMENT STORES DUMPED: J.C. Penney tumbled 24.7 percent to \$1.82 after it took a bigger loss than analysts expected and reported weaker sales. The chain also cut its forecasts for the year again. Dillard's dropped 14.9 percent to \$70.63 after its report. □

Associated Press

Why markets are worried about suddenly cold Turkey

By STAN CHOE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Why are investors around the world so worried about Turkey's economy, when it's smaller than Florida's? Because of the possibility that somebody bigger will be next. Investors have been pulling out of Turkey's markets, sending its stock market and currency plunging. That's making debt that Turkish companies owe in dollar terms even more expensive to pay back, which only further weakens the country's financial system. Turkish companies need to pay close to 5.80 lira for each \$1 of debt that they owe, for example, up from 3.79 lira at the start of the year. The big fear, though, is that the distress could spill over into other emerg-

ing markets and cause a cascading wave of losses as investors pull out of other countries that borrow heavily in dollars and are dependent on foreign investors. Argentina? Brazil? South Africa?

Such a thing has happened before. A financial crisis that began in 1997 after Thailand devalued its currency eventually sent markets reeling across the region in what became known as the Asian financial crisis. Stoking the concerns is the rising U.S. dollar and a Federal Reserve that has pledged to continue raising short-term interest rates. Such moves have historically coincided with pain for emerging market stocks. When U.S. rates are higher, investors feel less need to head to emerging

markets in search of higher returns. Many analysts along Wall Street, though, say they don't expect another Asian financial crisis. Turkey has borrowed much more in foreign currencies than any other country, as a percentage of its economy, and investors question how much authority its central bank has to raise in-

terest rates. Emerging-market economies broadly are also in much better shape than 20 years ago, with stronger currency reserves, say strategists at Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

"Turkey is both more exposed and less able to do something about it than any other country," says Brad McMillan, chief in-

vestment officer for Commonwealth Financial Network. □




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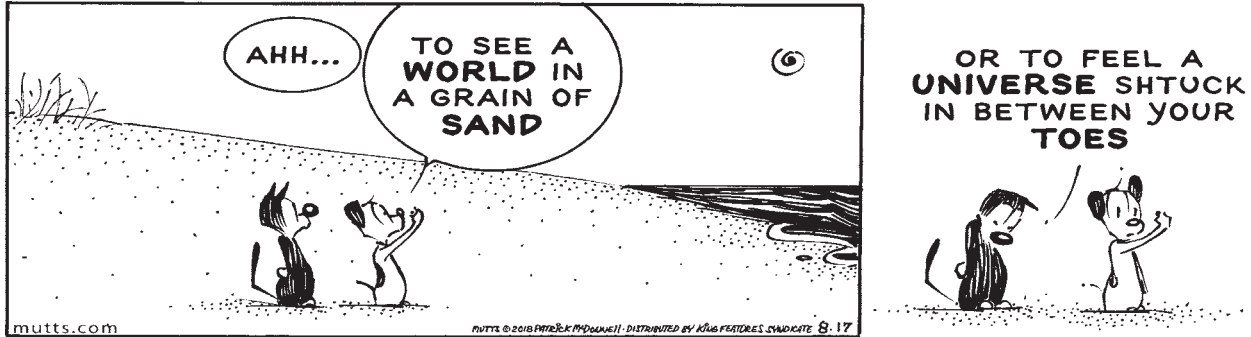
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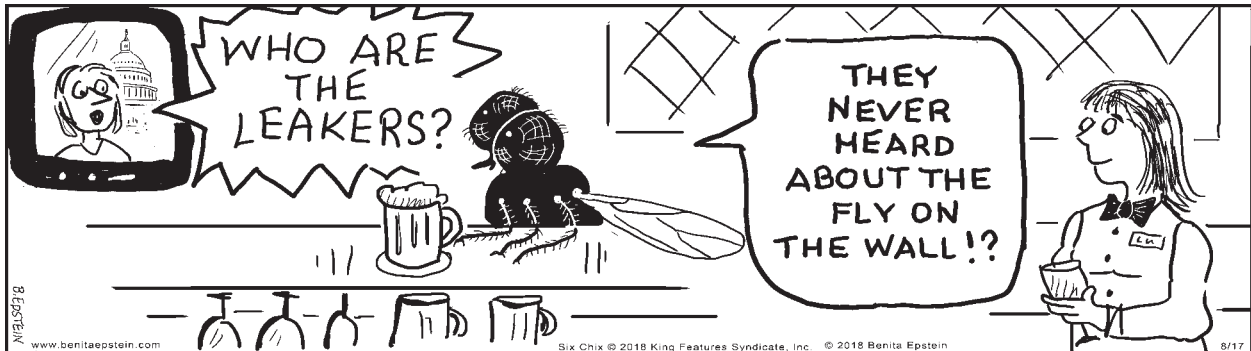
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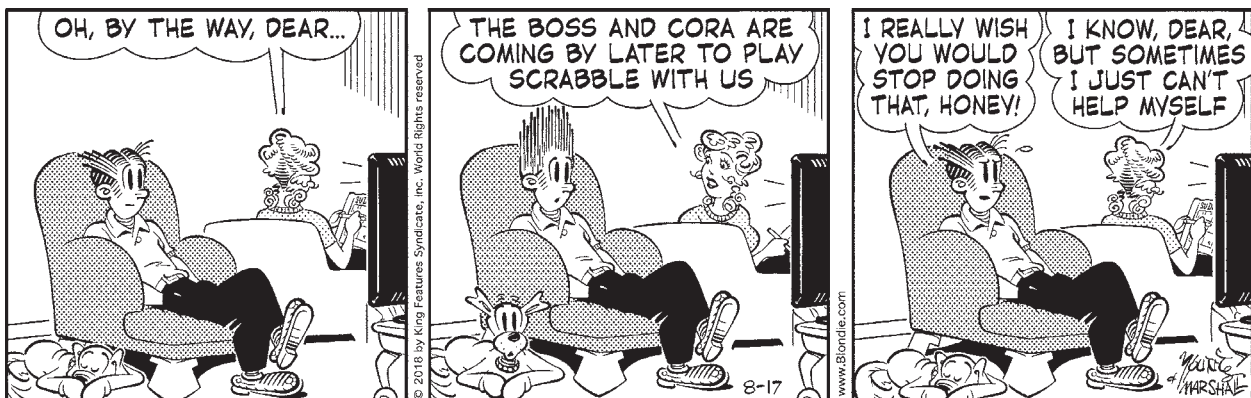
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	6		7			5		
	8			4	1		3	6
3								
	5							4
	7			6			2	
4							9	
								9
9	2		4	3			7	
		3			7		4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/17

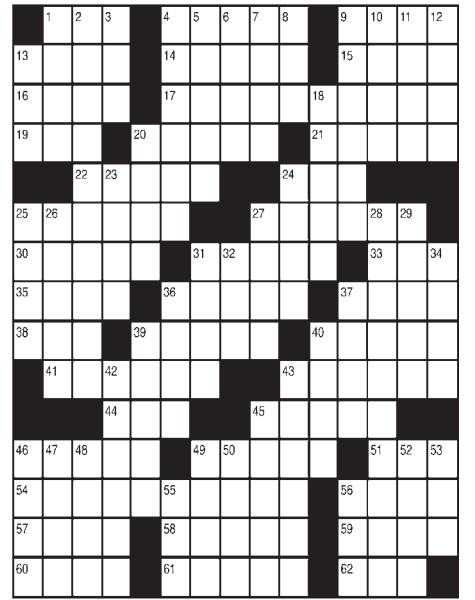
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	4	3	8	1	7	6	2	9
7	9	6	5	2	3	4	8	1
1	2	8	4	6	9	3	7	5
2	3	5	6	9	1	8	4	7
4	8	7	2	3	5	9	1	6
6	1	9	7	8	4	2	5	3
8	7	2	3	5	6	1	9	4
9	6	4	1	7	8	5	3	2
3	5	1	9	4	2	7	6	8

ACROSS

- 1 11th-graders: abbr.
4 Paper fasteners
9 Likelihood
13 Biblical book
14 Mysterious
15 Twofold
16 Notice
17 U.S. state capital
19 Ball holder
20 At ____; in the beginning
21 Lopsided
22 Requires
24 Dads with namesakes: abbr.
25 Turn
27 Write quickly & awkwardly
30 Informed
31 Go bad
33 Color in the U.S. flag
35 Hotels
36 Back tooth
37 Actor Annable
38 Month for carols: abbr.
39 Finger or toe
40 New Delhi currency
41 Winger and Messing
43 Melania's hubby
44 ____ Vegas
45 Bottom berth
46 Purse feature
49 Fails to grip the roadway
51 "Man ____ Thousand Faces"; James Cagney film
54 Introducing to an audience
56 Singing couples
57 Mom's sister
58 Spree
59 Dollar bills
60 Brooklyn team
61 Passion
62 Safe investments, for short
- ### DOWN
- 1 San ____; Costa Rica's capital
2 Remorse
3 ____ as a fox
4 Next to
5 Rumps
6 Rainbows
7 Soil
8 Black or Bering
9 Ukrainian seaport
10 Slam ____; hoopster's feat
11 Go out with
12 Not quick to learn
13 LAX arrival
18 Take a bride
20 Celebration
23 Dumbo's "wings"
24 Sign of an old surgery
25 Bug spray
26 Possessed
27 "Beat it!"
28 Toga or sari
29 On the ____; honest
31 Barkers
32 Inventor Whitney
34 Landowner's paper
36 Farrow & Kirshner
37 Sand mound



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/17/18

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

W	O	O	D	R	A	B	B	I	R	O	T	S
R	U	S	E	A	B	O	I	L	O	A	H	U
A	R	C	S	R	A	T	T	L	E	T	R	A
P	S	I	D	I	S	H	M	A	S	T	S	
	L	O	A	T	H		P	I	T			
H	I	L	A	R			A	L	L	E	N	S
O	R	A	T	E		C	A	R	E		A	U
R	A	T	S		C	O	M	M	A		S	T
A	T	E		P	U	M	A	S		C	A	I
	E	S	C	A	P	E			E	U	L	O
		A	L	S			G	R	E	E	N	
C	H	O	R	E		P	A	N	S		W	I
L	O	W	P	R	O	F	I	L	E		D	I
A	B	L	E		F	R	E	E	S		O	D
M	O	S	T		F	I	R	S	T		S	E

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8/17/18

- 39 Window covering
40 Propels a boat
42 Explosions
43 Los Angeles athlete
45 Shoptalk
46 Reach across
47 Sad but ____; unfortunate
48 Tom in two
49 Mix in a bowl
50 Good-hearted
52 Rivals
53 Beast of burden
55 Org. for Pistons & Pelicans
56 One of the Seven Dwarfs

Group sues to expand protected orca habitat along West Coast

By GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — An environmental group sued President Donald Trump's administration Thursday to make officials move more quickly to protect the Pacific Northwest's endangered orcas.

The recent grieving of one whale for her dead calf and scientists' extraordinary attempts to save another from starvation highlight the urgency of their plight, the Tucson, Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity said as it filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Seattle.

There are just 75 orcas remaining in the Pacific Northwest population, the lowest number in 34 years. They're struggling with a dearth of chinook salmon, their preferred prey, as well as toxic contamination and vessel noise.

The lawsuit says the National Marine Fisheries Service has failed to act on the center's 2014 petition to expand habitat protections to the orcas' foraging and migration areas off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California — even though the agency agreed in 2015 that such a move was necessary.

The center says the protections would help reduce water pollution and restrict vessel traffic that can interfere with the animals.

"Time is running out fast for these magnificent, intelligent orcas," Catherine Kilduff, an attorney with the organization, said in an emailed statement. "It's heartbreaking to watch them starving to death and mourning their dead calves. Every day that Trump's people delay action is a step toward extinction for these whales."

The three orca pods that make up the so-called southern resident population have not successfully reproduced since 2015. One orca, known as J35, drew international attention as she carried her dead newborn on her head for



In this Jan. 18, 2014, file photo, an endangered southern resident female orca leaps from the water while breaching in Puget Sound, west of Seattle.

Associated Press

more than two weeks — covering more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) — in a vain effort to help it live and breathe. She finally dropped the decomposing calf and returned to feeding and frolicking with her pod.

Another killer whale, 4-year-old J50, is so emaciated that researchers have taken unprecedented efforts to save her, injecting

her with an antibiotic dart and dropping live salmon from a boat into the water in front of her. They didn't see her take any of the fish, and the pod has moved to open water off Vancouver Island, delaying any further intervention.

Michael Milstein, a spokesman for NOAA Fisheries, said Thursday the agency agrees the situation for the orcas is dire. □



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Not just land heat waves: Oceans are in hot water, too

By CHRISTINA LARSON

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even the oceans are breaking temperature records in this summer of heat waves.

Off the San Diego coast, scientists earlier this month recorded all-time high sea-water temperatures since daily measurements began in 1916.

"Just like we have heat waves on land, we also have heat waves in the ocean," said Art Miller of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Between 1982 and 2016, the number of "marine heat waves" roughly doubled, and likely will become more common and intense as the planet warms, a study released Wednesday found. Prolonged periods of extreme heat in the oceans can damage kelp forests and coral reefs, and harm fish and other marine life.

"This trend will only further



In this Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013 file photo, a Guadalupe fur seal, foreground, passes by as SeaWorld animal rescue team member Heather Ruce feeds a California sea lion at a rescue facility in San Diego, with rescue crews seeing a higher than average amount of stranded sea lions.

Associated Press

accelerate with global warming," said Thomas Frolicher, a climate scientist at the University of Bern

in Switzerland, who led the research.

His team defined marine heat waves as extreme

events in which sea-surface temperatures exceeded the 99th percentile of measurements for a given loca-

tion. Because oceans both absorb and release heat more slowly than air, most marine heat waves last for at least several days — and some for several weeks, said Frolicher.

"We knew that average temperatures were rising. What we haven't focused on before is that the rise in the average comes at you in clumps of very hot days — a shock of several days or weeks of very high temperatures," said Michael Oppenheimer, a Princeton University climate scientist who was not involved in the study.

Many sea critters have evolved to survive within a fairly narrow band of temperatures compared to creatures on land, and even incremental warming can be disruptive.

Some free-swimming sea animals like bat rays or lobsters may shift their routines. □

Endangered Green, Loggerhead turtles make comeback in Cyprus

By PETROS KARADJIAS and MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS

Associated Press

LARA BEACH, Cyprus (AP) —

For these ancient reptiles, a stretch of beach on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus has been their home for thousands of years.

Against the setting sun, the tiny turtles that have just hatched on Lara Beach strain against the surf to reach the Mediterranean Sea and embark on their life's journey.

And in 20 to 30 years, they'll be back at this exact location to lay their own eggs.

After being hunted to near extinction in the first half of the last century, the Mediterranean's endangered Loggerhead and Green



In this photo taken on Thursday, Aug. 9, 2018, a conservationist holds up a tiny sea turtle that just hatched from its nest on Cyprus' protected Lara beach.

Associated Press

turtles are making a comeback thanks to pioneering conservation efforts, Cypriot marine biologists say.

When those efforts began

in 1978, there were just 300 turtle nests on the island's beaches where the reptiles return to lay their eggs. The population has grown to around 1,100 nests last year, said Andreas Demetropoulos, the founder and co-head of a turtle conservation program under the island-nation's Fisheries and Marine Research Department.

That may not sound a lot, but with the turtles' reproductive cycles stretching

out as long as three decades, the results are "quite spectacular," said Demetropoulos.

This increase is especially encouraging for the Green turtle, which lays its eggs in only two countries — Turkey and European Union member Cyprus. There are only about 1,500 female Green turtles that lay eggs in those two countries, as opposed to 6,000 female Loggerhead — or Careta Careta — turtles that lay eggs across the Mediterranean. According to marine biologist and conservation program co-head Myroula Hadjichristophorou, Cyprus has 200-300 Green turtles who lay eggs while the number for Loggerheads is more than double that.

Cyprus instituted its conservation program long before any other EU member and that has paid dividends, said Hadjichristophorou. Efforts include guarding against the turtles' main predator — foxes — and passing crucial legislation in 1989 that allowed conservationists to protect two

key beaches in the island's west and northwest, keeping curious locals and tourists at bay.

Before this, residents would camp on the beach and fire up barbecues with little concern for the turtles. But over time, Hadjichristophorou says the region has built up a conservationist culture — from schoolkids to adults — so that folks who spot something like an injured turtle notify the authorities immediately.

Turtles have been around for 200 million years on Earth but have called the Mediterranean home only for about 10,000 years, said Hadjichristophorou. Remarkably, the turtles' own ingrained "biological GPS" brings them back to lay their eggs to the same beaches that their ancestors chose thousands of years ago.

"When people come here with their families, their children, they see the babies coming out of their nests, this is something that they will never forget," said Hadjichristophorou. □

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A look back at Aretha Franklin's life, successes

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Early in 1967 when she was already a music industry veteran but had only a few minor hits to show for it, Aretha Franklin recorded "Respect" and sent herself into superstardom. The song was released as a single and was the lead track on her breakthrough album, "I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You," her debut for Atlantic Records. Producer Jerry Wexler encouraged her to embrace her soul-and-gospel roots and together they found the sound that birthed "Respect." The song had been a moderate hit for Otis Redding, who wrote and first recorded it. Franklin flipped the gender, spelled out R-E-S-P-E-C-T in the lyrics, and added the repeated "sock it to me" line from the backup singers. The result was a career-defining hit that won Franklin two Grammys, became an anthem for women and quickly entered the pantheon of American song.

Franklin's flagging career got an unlikely boost from John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd when she appeared and sang her classic "Think" in the 1980 movie "The Blues Brothers." Frank-



In this April 28, 1993 file photo, Aretha Franklin, foreground left, performs in the finale of "Aretha Franklin: Duets," an AIDS benefit concert for the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York.

Associated Press

lin plays a fed-up waitress who sings the song as a warning to her short-order cook boyfriend, who wants to rejoin the Blues Brothers band and go back on the road. Waitresses, customers and Belushi and Aykroyd served as her backup singers and dancers. The scene introduced Franklin to a new generation, and signaled that she'd have a career revival in the '80s. Aretha Franklin became the first woman inducted

into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987, joining a boys' club of two dozen men. Her class included Marvin Gaye, Bo Diddley, B.B. King and Franklin's essential producer, Wexler. The ceremony was all-male anyway, with Franklin a no-show and Keith Richards delivering her induction speech. Franklin's brother Cecil, a minister, accepted on her behalf and did an impromptu victory dance with Richards.

George W. Bush gave Franklin the Presidential Medal of Freedom in a White House ceremony in 2005. The highest civilian honor bestowed by the United States, the Medal of Freedom honors those who have made especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors." Bush said in his citation for Franklin that

she "revolutionized American music" and "has captivated listeners ever since she toured with her father's gospel revue in the 1950s. She is among our nation's greatest musical artists and has captured the hearts of millions of Americans."

Franklin sang "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" at the first inauguration of President Barack Obama. The celebration of the election of the nation's first black president was perhaps the pinnacle of Franklin's long tradition of singing at America's big ceremonial moments. She sang at the inauguration of Jimmy Carter, at the official festivities surrounding the inauguration of Bill Clinton, and at memorials for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. At Obama's inauguration, Franklin appeared on the cold January day in a winter coat and a hat with a huge gray bow on top that brought a stream of jokes and comments on the fledgling Facebook and Twitter. She gave the usually stodgy

"My Country 'Tis of Thee" a soul-and-pop feel in her performance, endlessly stretching out and vamping on the final line, "let freedom ring." □

Paul Walker's brothers open to 'Fast' franchise return

By RYAN PEARSON

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nearly five years after Paul Walker's death, his brothers say they're open to playing his character again in the "Fast and Furious" franchise.

Producers asked Caleb and Cody Walker to fill in for their brother and help complete "Furious 7" after he died in a fiery off-set car crash in November 2013.

His face was digitally superimposed onto his brothers' performances for scenes that Walker had not yet shot and in a modified ending in which his character Brian O'Conner drives off into the sunset.

The character remains



In this Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2018 photo, Cody Walker, Adrian Buitenhuis and Caleb Walker, pose for a portrait in Los Angeles, in promotion of the documentary film "I Am Paul Walker."

Associated Press

alive in the fictional "Fast" universe and is mentioned twice in 2017's "The Fate of

the Furious."

"I just hope we get to — I don't know — have a little

cameo and bring Paul back to save the day and I get to help create that again," Caleb Walker, 40, said in an interview last week. "That's my dream and I hope we get to do that in one of the future movies."

"I think there could potentially be a way to do it. But it would take a lot of thought and it'd have to be tasteful. It would have to be tasteful," Cody Walker, 30, said in the interview. "He was the real deal, the real car guy. And in his absence, I — you know — I think it's lost its way in a big way."

Caleb and Cody Walker were promoting "I Am Paul Walker," a new one-hour documentary about the

actor's childhood, family and career directed by Adrian Buitenhuis. It premiered last weekend on the Paramount Network.

"It's kind of creepy sometimes when you're like, 'Oh, that's me.' It doesn't feel right," Caleb Walker said.

"I think one day, when our kids are little older and we are able to share that experience with them and be like, 'Hey look, this is your uncle Paul. He was the greatest guy in the world and here we are being able to portray him and finish up this movie for him.' That's when I think it will really hit that I think it was really worth it and special and all that. But in the meantime, it's still a little conflicted." □

A low-key rom-com for Gen-X in 'Juliet, Naked'

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

"Juliet, Naked" is a charming and smart little film about early middle age, second chances, regrets and the intoxicating freedom of written correspondence that's nearly impossible to explain without either spoiling something or being willfully misleading. That's actually one of its attributes: Everything only makes sense in context of everything else. "Juliet, Naked" has a plot that not only builds but that keeps getting more interesting and more rewarding, which is a good thing because to hear this film described is a tedious and confusing exercise. Woman starts romance with elusive indie rocker who is also boyfriend's obsession? What? Because, ultimately, "Juliet, Naked," adapted from a Nick Hornby novel and directed by Jesse Peretz, is not really about the romance or the rocker or the lousy boyfriend. It's about a woman, trapped in stagnation learning what she



This image released by Lionsgate and Roadside Attractions shows Rose Byrne, left, and Ethan Hawke in a scene from "Juliet, Naked."

wants. (No wonder this Sundance gem is hovering just over "fresh" on Rotten Tomatoes.) Rose Byrne plays said woman, Annie, who lives a perfectly ordinary life in an English coastal town. She works for the tiny local museum that her father once ran, she spends time with her sister and she tolerates her man-child boyfriend, an academic named Dun-

can (perfectly rendered by Chris O'Dowd). Duncan runs a fan blog devoted to Tucker Crowe (Ethan Hawke), a fictional cultish figure from the 90s indie rock scene who made a seminal album, "Juliet," but vanished in between sets at the height of his fame and hasn't been heard from for 25 years. Annie is dutifully supportive of this obsession, until

one day a disc arrives in the mail, "Juliet, Naked," a compilation of early demos that no one has heard. Duncan thinks it's genius but Annie dissents, countering that unfinished works of art are just that — unfinished — and not meant to be heard, even posting a lengthy comment on the blog. This infuriates Duncan, who you could imagine break-

ing up with her because of a difference of opinion, but manages to get the attention of someone else — Tucker Crowe. He emails Annie to tell her she got it right, which kicks off a wonderful little trans-Atlantic correspondence between two people who couldn't have conducted themselves more differently in their youth, but have found themselves in a similar spot nonetheless. I'm not even sure it's accurately categorized as a romance — more so the heady excitement of actually connecting with another person over something honest, like regrets, both of whom have many. Annie regrets caring to the point of paralysis ("I keep thinking at some point there will be a reward for being so sensible," she says). Tucker regrets not caring enough. Not only was he a prolific partier, he also managed to father a fair number of children, from a fair number of women, all of whom are equally and rightfully angry at their mostly absentee father. □

Associated Press

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MILE 22
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FRI 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SAT 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35

KODI SMIT-MCPHEE | NATASSIA MALTHE
ALPHA
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG-13)
MONTHU 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15
FRI 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15 | 11:30
SAT 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15

JASON STATHAM | RUBY ROSE
MEG
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG-13)
MONTHU 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25
FRI 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25 | 11:55
SAT 1:55 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:25

EWAN MCGREGOR | HAYLEY ATWELL
Christopher Robin (PG)
MONTHU 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00
FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20
SAT 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

MILA KUNIS | KATE MCKINNON
SPY WHO DUMPED ME
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (R)
MONTHU & SUN 4:35 | 9:20
FRI & SAT 4:35 | 9:20 | 11:50

JOEY KING | JAVIER BOTET
SLENDER MAN
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG-13)
MONTHU & SUN 9:30
FRI & SAT 9:30 | 11:40

TOM CRUISE | HENRY CAVILL
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE FALLOUT (PG-13)
MON-FRI 6:00 | 9:05
SAT-SUN 2:55 | 6:00 | 9:05

ADAM SANDLER | SELENA GOMEZ
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 4
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG)
MON-FRI 5:10 | 7:20
SAT & SUN 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20

DWAYNE JOHNSON | NEVE CAMPBELL
SKYSCRAPER
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG-13)
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SAT-SUN 2:20 | 7:05

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Madonna is the Queen of Pop and a soccer mom, too



In this April 19, 2007 file photo, U.S. singer Madonna carries her Malawian adopted son David Banda in the village of Masekese, Malawi.

By PETER KANJERE
Associated Press
BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP) — The Queen of Pop is also a soccer mom, and she's getting ever more involved in the beautiful game.

Associated Press
Madonna has plans to open a soccer academy in Malawi, a move inspired by her adopted son David Banda, who has ambitions to be a professional player and is at Portuguese club

Benfica's youth academy. Madonna follows 12-year-old David's progress in Portugal closely, living in Lisbon and often posting photos and videos from the sidelines of his games. Madonna, who turned 60 on Thursday, floated the soccer academy idea in the southern African country last month, prompting the national association to respond enthusiastically. "We are excited with this window of opportunity that has arisen," Malawi Football Association president Walter Nyamilandu told The Associated Press. "It will complement our efforts to establish football academies in the country." The association has offered Madonna a piece of land next to the national soccer stadium in the capital, Lilongwe, Nyamilandu said. □

As our media environment blurs, confusion often reigns

By DAVID BAUDER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A generation ago, the likes of Walter Cronkite, Peter Jennings and Diane Sawyer were the heroes of television news. Now the biggest stars are arguably Sean Hannity and Rachel Maddow.

Notice the difference? Cronkite, Jennings and Sawyer reported the news. Hannity and Maddow talk about the news, and occasionally make it. But you never doubt how they feel about it.

In a chaotic media landscape, with traditional guideposts stripped away by technology and new business models, the old lines between journalism and commentary are growing ever fuzzier. As President Donald Trump rewrites the rules of engagement to knock the media off stride, he's found a receptive audience among his supporters for complaints about "fake news" and journalists who are "enemies of the people."

In such a climate, is it any wonder people seem to be having a hard time distinguishing facts from points of view, and sometimes from outright fiction? It's a conclusion that is driving anger at the news media as a whole. On Thursday, it produced a coordinated effort by a collection of the nation's newspapers to hit back at perceptions that they are somehow unpatriotic.

"We don't have a communications and public sphere that can discern between fact and opinion, between serious journalists and phonies," says Stephen J.A. Ward, author of 10 books on the media, including the upcoming "Ethical Journalism in a Populist Age."

Not long ago — think back 30 years — the news business had a certain order to it.

Evening newscasts on ABC, CBS and NBC gave straightforward accounts of the day's events, and morning shows told you what happened while you slept. Newspapers flour-



This photo shows MSNBC television anchor Rachel Maddow at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Mass. on Oct. 16, 2017, and Sean Hannity of Fox News at Conservative Political Action Conference in National Harbor, Md. on March 4, 2016.

ished, with sections clearly marked for news and editorial pages for opinion. The one cable network, in its infancy, followed the play-it-straight rules of the big broadcasters. There was no Internet, no social media feed, no smartphone with headlines flashing. Today, many newspapers are diminished. People are as likely to find articles through links on social media posted by friends and celebrities. Three TV news channels, two with firmly established points of view, air an endless loop of politically laced talk. There's no easy escape from a 24-hour-a-day news culture.

The internet's emergence has made the media far more democratic — for good and ill. There are many more voices to hear. But the loudest ones frequently get the most attention.

"No one can control the flow of information across social media and the internet media," says George Campbell, a 53-year-old business consultant from Chicago. "This has led to a confusion about fact vs. fake. But mostly, it has resulted in a cash cow for conspiracy makers."

Let's not neglect the mem-

orable journalism that the Trump era has produced all across the country. Many newspapers are far from "failing," as Trump often claims about the scoop-hungry shops at The New York Times and The Washington Post. The number of digital subscribers to the Times has jumped from below 1 million in 2015 to more than 2.4 million now. For many years, those network executives did a delicate dance. The stations were news during the day, opinion at night. But with the opinion shows so successful — shouting what you believe tends to "pop" more than facts — it has become harder to suppress those identities. Even when different sides are given, the hours are filled with opinionated people giving their takes.

A recent White House briefing illustrates how the Trump administration has plucked examples from the endless talk feed in its campaign against the media.

When press secretary Sarah Sanders rebuffed CNN reporter Jim Acosta's attempt to have her renounce Trump's attacks on the press, she noted that she's been attacked personally by "the media" more than once, including

by CNN. Both of Sanders' references had nothing to do with news reporting, and a lot to do with expressions of opinion. One of them, for example, came from an MSNBC appearance by Jennifer Rubin, a Washington Post columnist paid specifically to give her take on things.

But that kind of distinction blurs when it's decoupled from the newspaper columns and appears in the wild of social media feeds. "I don't blame the public for being confused," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, communications professor and director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. In a heated news environment, journalists are left to find descriptions for things they haven't seen before. CNN's Anderson Cooper called Trump's performance in a joint news conference with Russia's Vladimir Putin "disgraceful" after both leaders left a Helsinki stage this summer. For Cooper, it was a moment of truth-telling. For the president's supporters, it was a brash embrace of bias. The Pew Research Center conducted an experiment earlier this year. It presented more than 5,000 adults with five statements of fact and

five opinions and asked them to identify which was which. Only 26 percent of respondents correctly identified the five facts, and 35 percent identified the five opinions as such.

The survey suggested that people are in different realities. For instance, 63 percent of Republicans correctly said the statement "Barack Obama was born in the United States" was a fact. Meanwhile, 37 percent of Democrats incorrectly identified the statement "increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour is essential for the health of the U.S. economy" as fact, not opinion.

"Overall, Americans have some ability to separate what is factual from what is opinion," says Amy Mitchell, Pew's director of journalism research. "But the gaps across population groups raise caution, especially given all we know about news consumers' tendency to feel worn out by the amount of news there is these days, and to dip briefly into and out of news rather than engage deeply with it."

Another contributing factor to confusion is the way news articles often lose their context when spread on Twitter feeds and other social media, Jamieson said. Opinion and news stories live in the same space, sometimes clearly marked, sometimes not.

One Facebook feed, for example, linked to a Los Angeles Times article with the headline, "In a strikingly ignorant tweet, Trump gets almost everything about California wildfires wrong" and gave no indication that it was an opinion piece.

For many people, the editors and news producers who were once media gatekeepers have been replaced by opinionated uncles and old high-school classmates who spend all their time online. Russian trolls harnessed the power of these changes in news consumption before most people realized what was happening. □

A rising concern? After straws, balloons get more scrutiny

By CANDICE CHOI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Now that plastic straws may be headed for extinction, could Americans' love of balloons be deflated?

The joyous celebration of releasing balloons into the air has long bothered environmentalists, who say the pieces that fall back to earth can be deadly to seabirds and turtles that eat them. So as companies vow to banish plastic straws, there are signs balloons will be among the products to get more scrutiny, even though they're a very small part of environmental pollution.

This year, college football powerhouse Clemson University is ending its tradition of releasing 10,000 balloons into the air before games, a move that's part of its sustainability efforts. In Virginia, a campaign that urges alternatives to balloon releases at weddings is expanding. And a town in Rhode Island outright banned the sale of all balloons earlier this year, citing the harm to marine life.

"There are all kinds of alternatives to balloons, a lot of ways to express yourself," says Kenneth Lacoste, first warden of New Shoreham, Rhode Island, who cites posters, piñatas and decorated paper.



In this Sept. 26, 2015 photo, balloons are released after Nebraska touchdown against Southern Miss during first half of NCAA college football game in Lincoln, Neb.

Following efforts to limit plastic bags, the push by environmentalists against straws has gained traction in recent months, partly because they're seen as unnecessary for most. Companies including Starbucks and Disney are promising to phase out plastic straws, which can be difficult to recycle because of their size and often end up as trash in the ocean. A handful of U.S. cities recently passed or are considering bans. And the push may bring attention to other items people may not have consid-

ered — like festive balloons. "The issue of straws has really broadened the marine debris issue," says Emma Tonge of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. People might not realize balloons are a danger, she says, because of their "light and whimsical" image.

Balloons are not among the top 10 kinds of debris found in coastal cleanups, but Tongue says they're common and especially hazardous to marine animals, which can also get entangled in balloon strings.

Chelsea Rochman, an assistant professor of ecology at the University of Toronto, says people should think systemically about waste and pollution, but that efforts to bring attention to specific products shouldn't be dismissed as too minor. "If we said that about everything, we wouldn't get anything done," she says.

Already, a few states restrict balloon releases to some extent, according to the Balloon Council, which represents the industry and advocates for the responsible handling of its products to "uphold the integrity of the professional balloon community." That means never releasing them into the air, and ensuring the strings have a weight tied to them so the balloons

balloon trailing behind it. The report addresses the "rising concern" of balloons, which also often use helium, a non-renewable resource. It notes the difficulty of changing a social norm and that even typing "congrats" in a Facebook post results in an animation of balloons. It even claims the media play a role and that some groups conduct balloon releases "just so reporters will cover the event."

"We don't want to say don't use them at all. We're saying just don't release them," says Laura McKay of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

Some states such as California ban balloon releases for other reasons. Pacific Gas & Electric, which serves northern and central California, says metallic balloons caused 203 power outages in the first five months of this year, up 22 percent from a year ago. Lacoste thinks other towns, particularly those along the coasts, will also ban balloons as people become more aware of environmental issues. He notes that plastic bags were once seen as harmless, but many places now ban them. □

Associated Press

don't accidentally float away. Lorna O'Hara, executive director of the Balloon Council, doesn't dispute that marine creatures might mistake balloons for jellyfish and eat them. But she says that doesn't mean balloons are necessarily causing their deaths. Clean Virginia Waterways still thinks balloons can be harmful. Included in its report last year: A photo of a soaring bird with a deflated



In this Oct. 14, 2017, file photo balloons are released in Memorial Stadium before an NCAA college football game between Indiana and Michigan in Bloomington, Ind.

Associated Press



In this Oct. 5, 2017, file photo Annette Antwi, of Newark, N.J., releases balloons while celebrating her birthday in front of a fountain at Branch Brook Park in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press